

National Cultural Policy Submission

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Public and anonymous



Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

The greatest joy in my life has been to turn my life-long passion for the arts which began as a child into a career that sustains me both financially and emotionally. Whilst I am no longer a practising artist, I strongly support the right of all passionate young art and culture lovers to pursue their dreams of doing what they love for a living. Audiences for the arts are created in your formative years – even if you don't go on to be an artist or a creative, you become the audience for those that do. Fostering an appreciation for the arts and the creative industries benefits everyone. It results in better outcomes for education and creates social cohesion in society.

I strongly believe the next iteration of the cultural policy should include:

- The reintroduction of an expanded Artists in residence in schools program at both primary and secondary levels
- Fully funded school libraries should be mandatory and not dependent on discretionary budgets or state funding • Fund programs for young people to actively engage in the arts such as youth theatre, the centre for youth literature, CCD programs for refugee and at-risk youth, etc
- Remove the previous LNP government increase in student fees for studying arts & humanities degrees at university • Reinstate the ArtStart program (previously administered by the Australia Council) to support the transition of arts graduates from study into careers
- Introduce a living wage for artists and reform the current tax system so professional artists pay less tax and can reinvest in their art
- Make arts grants and prizes exempt from income tax. Please note these views and opinions are my own and not that of my employer.