

To The Committee Overseeing the Paper for a new national cultural policy,

Please note that I have had various work over the years, including working as the additional services department head for a nursing home and as a support worker assisting the disabled with access to the community.

Please note that it has been incredibly difficult to find suitable arts and culture for both the aged and disabled within our communities. Previously art shows, theatre and the circus would have midday shows and matinee's, now this seems to have fallen out of vogue, for it rising costs the arts are unable to hold these additional shows for these sectors. This is cutting a important part of the Australian community our of our artistic community.

The aged and disability sector would love to go to the circus or see the theatre during the nursing home outing hours of Monday to Friday 10am to 3:30pm, however this just does not seem to be the case anymore. It is incredibly frustrating trying to find a event that hold such wonderful memories for people who lay not have the support mechanisms in place or the ability to go to weekend or evening events.

Australia that's to have a great performing arts sector that would travel to show painting and visual performances to children and the elderly that don't seem to be inviting anymore. It is a real shame that cultural side of Australia doesn't seem to be supported to thrive at the moment.

I had residents who would have loved to have gone to aboriginal outings and experienced aboriginal tasting events at art galleries, however the only spaces that these galleries that can afford to rent are entirely unsuitable for the disabled and the elderly.

My family and friends have a real strong oral history of the performing arts and the love of the travelling artists that would come and go. For instance everyone speaks of the circus and the Ashton circus coming to town or how when they went to school their were giraffe's as the Ashtons had come to town. Unfortunately the exotic animals that were performers were no longer able to be used by the circus's so they evolved, they became smaller, they created new and interesting acts to keep the crowds entertained.

Now the circus community is not only being impacted by the rising cost of petrol but they are unable to insure their tents.

With the expansion of developers the lands they were once able to perform on are dwindling and those that they can perform on cost money to do so.

It is a real pity that the touring and performing arts do not have fuel rebates or subsidies to assist them with continuing to bring culture to our communities.

It would be great if councils could lend more financial support to the touring arts by providing free/heavily discounted sites, power and to ensure that they are given the permits to be able to perform within our communities.

Without tents there is no circus can the government not assist with insurance on these tents. Can the government not back a insurance scheme for the touring arts, including their tents, to ensure that they can continue to bring wonder and amazement to our communities.

Art and culture brings so much togetherness and community to us as Australians and it would be such a pity to not come out and support these artists who have continued to evolve, sometimes generation after generation after generation, doing the hard yards with very minimal profits and ever extending costs.

We as Australians owe it to the artists to support them so that our culture can continue to evolve and to be proud to be Australians and there is more to our culture then sport. The arts are important to all of us.

Thank you,

Regards 

Please keep this anonymous.

Thank you.