

**National Cultural Policy Submission**

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Public

Individual

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Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

Australia is a multicultural country with a complex history. First Nations peoples are the original custodians of this land, and their culture, language, and connection to Country should always be respected and protected as the foundation of Australia's national identity.

At the same time, Australia's modern society has been shaped by migration. After British colonisation and the later period of the White Australia policy, the country gradually opened its doors to people from many different parts of the world. Today, migrants from countries such as India, China, and many others contribute to Australia's economy, workforce, small businesses, education, culture, and community life.

In my view, Australia's cultural policy should promote unity, respect, and fairness. It should not divide people into "original Australians" and "outsiders" in a harmful way. Instead, it should recognise First Nations heritage, acknowledge the country's history honestly, and also respect the contribution of migrants who now call Australia home.

It is understandable that some people may feel concerned about population growth, housing pressure, jobs, or infrastructure. These are real issues, but blaming migrants is not the right solution. The government should manage migration responsibly while also investing properly in housing, transport, health, education, and community services.

Australia's strength is that people from different backgrounds can live together under shared values: respect, equality, freedom, responsibility, and the rule of law. Cultural policy should support programs that encourage social harmony, anti-racism education, English language learning, respect for First Nations culture, and opportunities for all communities to participate in Australian life.

My suggestion is that Australia should continue to be a welcoming and multicultural country, but with a strong focus on fairness, social cohesion, and respect for the land's First Peoples. A successful cultural policy should bring people together, not create fear or division.