

National Cultural Policy Submission

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Public

Individual

Nicholas Wishart



Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

I support the submission from the national alliance of Community Arts and Cultural Development (CACD) organisations and practitioners. It calls for CACD to be recognised and funded as essential cultural infrastructure in Australia's next National Cultural Policy. CACD connects creativity and community, building social cohesion, resilience and meaningful participation nationwide.

Despite its impact, CACD is not clearly recognised in the current *REVIVE* framework, creating a significant policy gap. This limits visibility of a practice that delivers on priorities like equity, access and participation, and weakens the ability to respond creatively to challenges such as climate impacts, disasters and social division.

CACD is not a niche artform but a cross-sector approach spanning areas like health, education and disaster management. While only 5–6% of arts funding is formally attributed to CACD, this understates its real reach due to inconsistent measurement and dispersed funding.

CACD strengthens community connection, wellbeing, local economies and civic participation, while supporting environmental awareness and resilience. It plays a critical role in enabling communities to respond to complex challenges and shape their cultural futures.

To address the gap, the submission calls for formal recognition of CACD, a national body within Creative Australia, stronger workforce investment, long-term place-based funding, better data systems, and embedding CACD across government portfolios.

At a time of growing instability and social fragmentation, CACD provides the creative and relational infrastructure needed to build trust and collective capacity. To deliver on *REVIVE's* vision of "a place for every story", CACD must be properly recognised, measured and resourced.