

## National Cultural Policy Submission

1469627

Public and anonymous



Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

To strengthen arts infrastructure and support critical thinking in the wider community, the Jobs Ready university scheme has to go. It promotes elitism within the arts by limiting access to cultural education to the wealthy. This creates more division in Australian society, when ironically the arts have the potential to draw communities together. We need more historians, writers and artists in every discipline in these challenging times to help us make sense of the politics and economics which affect us. Locking young people out of these paths by imposing \$50 000 degrees which take 17 to 25 years, or longer, to repay is foolish and short sighted. It impacts them personally by limiting options and limits the possibilities available to Australia as a society in the future. The policy also impacts Indigenous Australians unfairly, since many Indigenous students choose to study the arts. This policy is a failure, people oriented to the arts are unlikely to choose a science or STEM university course instead. They are choosing instead not to go to university and wasting their talent and potential, working at fast food outlets and cafes etc . There are even fewer choices for them if they live in a regional area. Australia needs to have a cultural policy which includes young people and which looks to the future, to strengthen our communities at grass roots levels and which serves our society by helping us reflect on our experiences. Axe the Jobs Ready graduate scheme and fund the arts properly. Provide support for artists and arts institutions now and educate the next generation of artists, writers, painters, dramatists, historians, dancers, musicians, poets. Have integrity and create an arts policy with equity in mind for the future.