

National Cultural Policy Submission

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Public and anonymous



Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

To further encourage innovation and systemic funding levels for a sustainable industry, a sizeable and dedicated funding boost to establish private sector collaborative funding (akin to the Australia Cultural Fund and Creative Futures Fund, but the size of the DFAT Australia Development Investments) to diversify the funding mechanisms available to the sector, such as impact-led, recyclable or repayable financing funds that grow the capital available to the industry beyond grants. This could include dedicated corpus funding to support the Venice Biennale, new and innovative productions, and other major cultural installations to help attract matched funding from commercial and philanthropic partners.

Assist audience participation and production support through dedicated tax-adjustments to facilitate cost maintenance in the sector, such as removing fringe benefit restrictions on Australian-cultural spend, introducing tax offsets for subsidised production investment including property access to cultural business (such as book stores, pre-production costs and rehearsal space), and establishment benefits to early career artists such as writers, composers, musicians to bolster sustainability of cultural careers in our high-cost environment.

To foster a thriving environment for creative workers across Australia we need more targeted support for the legislative, tax and financial requirements of freelance careers in the sector, that provide direct services to access affordable support for project development, meeting their financial and taxation administrative needs, and mentoring opportunities to facilitate constructive career pathways that let them focus on delivering the art or business model innovation that supplies Australian cultural output.

In our line of work, we encounter so many brilliant artists with deep industry and artform brilliance but struggle to maintain the basics in a commercial setting of running a business including how to invoice, conflicts of interest and negotiating remediation when things don't go to plan or a vendor has not delivered to contract. This support could be provided centrally as a knowledge and administration hub supporting the sector through established agencies to help navigate and inform the overly complex compliance framework and required financial system infrastructure in Australia that is highly unaffordable and largely cannot be capitalised.