

National Cultural Policy Submission

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Public and anonymous



Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

The languages we speak are a major source of creativity - whether in speaking, signing, singing, writing or performing. In Australia people speak many languages, whether First Nations languages, varieties of English or other immigrant languages. Currently we have policies and resources to support the revival and maintenance of First Nations languages, and cultural activities in these languages. But we have almost nothing to support speakers of new First Nations languages, or speakers of immigrant languages. These speakers need consistent and excellent support in learning standard English for access to mainstream services (as do speakers of First Nations languages in remote communities). But we also need to recognise the value and creative potential of the languages, and the insights into the world that they bring. Support artists and writers in creative endeavours in old and new First Nations languages, and in immigrant languages. Support translations of works in these languages into Australian English. Support the creation of dictionaries in these languages. Dictionaries are invaluable records of the world views of speakers. As well, support Australian English, for example through supporting national projects such as the Australian National Dictionary, which documents the changes in Australian English over time.