

National Cultural Policy Submission

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Public

Individual

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Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

Submission to Australia's next National Cultural Policy

I am a culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) visual artist, designer and Filipino migrant woman with 22 years of professional practice in Australia. My work includes 13 solo exhibitions, works held in private collections across 18 countries, and collaborative woven sculptures collected by the National Gallery of Australia and the South Australian Museum. Through this experience, I have seen both the strength of Australia's cultural diversity and the barriers that still limit fair participation.

The next National Cultural Policy should build on the five pillars of Revive while more directly recognising CALD artists as part of Australia's cultural infrastructure. CALD artists contribute migrant stories, hybrid creative methods, local knowledge and cross-cultural collaboration, yet our work is often disadvantaged by narrow funding categories, inconsistent assessment processes and limited recognition of cultural protocol, community partnership and multilingual practice.

My collaborations with Indigenous Elders are guided by cultural obligations, respect and community governance. This work supports knowledge transfer and community-led practice, but Elders' time and cultural labour are too often unpaid or under-recognised. If First Nations stories are truly central, the policy must support culturally authorised collaborations through fair payment, long-term investment and settings that uphold protocol, continuity and mutual accountability.

Despite national and international recognition, I have not secured a solo government grant. This reflects a broader structural problem, not simply an individual outcome. To uphold the centrality of the artist, policy implementation must include transparent assessment, enforceable payment standards and investment that reflects the real cost of professional practice. Equity measures should address systemic bias so CALD artists can access the same core pathways available to others.

The policy should also address practical barriers that affect access. Electoral boundary changes and shifting eligibility settings can exclude artists who have contributed to regional communities for decades. At the same time, stronger touring, production support and digital presentation are needed so CALD and regional artists can reach audiences nationally and internationally. Reaching the audience must include infrastructure that supports artists outside major cities and across diverse communities.

To align the new policy with its stated goals, I urge the Government to recognise and measure CALD contributions in national datasets and reporting, establish dedicated funding pathways for CALD and cross-cultural practice, protect fair eligibility through transition and review mechanisms, support multi-year culturally authorised First Nations collaborations, and invest in regional and digital access. CALD artists already deliver significant public value; the next policy should match that contribution with equitable support.