

National Cultural Policy Submission

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Public

Individual

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Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

As an Artist and practitioner across live music and the film/tv I am thankful that there are ongoing efforts to keep the sector alive, but I am concerned about the framework that is increasingly strangling the ability for independent artists to survive, let alone thrive. More and more the government has centralised the means of procuring funding or investment (scrapping the 10BA and implementing the offset in film for example) and leaving mid-career practitioners out in the cold whilst emerging or those of niche identity are given incentives. This is particularly stark for women who are reentering the workforce after child rearing. There are literally no current opportunities for women in film and tv to get directing placements or shadow opportunities. On paper the ADG and other organisations offers programs, but in practicality they do not exist as real options.

The same goes for live music - money goes to venues and events and distributors and the onus is on them to be fair and curate programs that pay Artists well. In my 20 years of performing, the fee has not gone up. We are still being offered \$200 per performance at a public festival. The revenue streams that existed - live jazz venues, touring, Selling CDs and merch - that's gone. Streaming costs, but pays nothing. All these systems seem designed to take, not champion or give true opportunity. Does no one value music anymore?

The biggest elephant in the room is AI. A recent masterclass for women around the country highlighted the capabilities of AI will make most film departments redundant in time. It is already decimating music creation and writing/graphics. What guardrails are being put in place to ensure craft is maintained and not scrapped for economic efficiencies? What laws (national and international) will protect local storytelling and champion independent voices? In France they have a fabulous system called the Intermittants du spectacle. They not only support their artists. They all them to thrive instead of survive. When will Australians support their own and f Guy to protect the Arts sector. Kate Separovich has outlined fantastic Guidelines on how to protect and support our film sector to thrive - offering tax benefits to Cinemas and ticket buyers who support Aussie films, ensuring marketing is mandatory across modalities so people KNOW what local content is being screened. The system is broken and the over reliance on state and federal funding bodies is strangling creative opportunity as well as ensuring most voices drown in silence. As a diverse storyteller I am depressed by the lack of representation within Australian film and tv and the gate keeping which ensures my voice won't be heard without robust measures that provide pathways and protect independent storytelling and music.