

National Cultural Policy Submission

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Public and anonymous

Organisation



Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

Australia's live entertainment sector is at a pivotal moment. As a commercial entertainment organisation operating across live performance, youth theatre, and touring production, we welcome this consultation and urge the next National Cultural Policy to address several urgent challenges that threaten the sector's long-term viability. Financial sustainability remains the most urgent challenge as without producers and companies to pay bills - there is no live entertainment in this country.

The structural inequity between the screen industry and live performance must be addressed. The screen sector benefits from Location and Producer Offsets of up to 30–40%, attracting significant private investment and international co-production. Live performance, which employs comparable numbers of Australians and delivers substantial cultural and community benefit has no equivalent mechanism.

Live Performance Australia has proposed tax offsets on qualifying production costs for live theatre, modelled on schemes already in place for screen and digital games industries in Australia and the Theatre Tax Relief scheme operating in the UK since 2014. Modelling suggests great benefits in employment, increased availability in live entertainment product, greater geographical reach and also long term financial viability for the Commonwealth.

We strongly support the introduction of some financial sustainability Incentives as a centrepiece of the next National Cultural Policy. Parity with the screen sector is an equity issue. Without it, the commercial live performance sector will not survive while the Australian talent it develops is absorbed by better-resourced industries or lost to overseas markets.