

National Cultural Policy Submission

1469795

Public

Individual

Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

Australian Cultural Policy — Key Points

I think the 5 pillars are great but need a small amendment.

Funding to regional areas is a fantastic idea.

On Minority Representation

- Minority voices are essential to Australia's national identity
- The dialogue around minorities has shifted from respectful and honest to condescending and patronizing. Our plight, whilst vastly improved, has been fetishized and exploited by the arts which is in itself deeply problematic.
- The plight of minority groups has at times also been politicised, complicating rather than improving their situation

On Cultural Inclusion

- Cultural policy must not alienate mainstream Australians
- A grievance-based approach to cultural policy is divisive and counterproductive
- Policy should move toward a framework that genuinely embraces all Australians
- The term 'First Nations First' is problematic and divisive, implying a racial preference over other Australians. The recommendation is to remove preferential language altogether and amend the designation simply to 'First Nations'. The story of ALL Australians is important.

On Arts Funding

- Modern art is currently favoured in funding decisions, often at the expense of broader artistic traditions
- There should be a return to classical, Heidelberg-style artistic values — celebrating beauty, craft and engagement
- Australians are fatigued by macabre, shocking and elitist artistic expressions

On National Identity

- Australia is a remarkable and enviable nation
- Cultural policy should celebrate Australia's successes rather than dwell on its failures
- A unifying, beauty-forward cultural vision will better reflect and strengthen the national identity