

National Cultural Policy Submission

1469875

Public and anonymous

Individual

Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

Dear Minister Burke,

I write to you as an emerging artist and arts worker, who encourages you to consider the recommendations of Community Arts and Cultural Development (CACD) organisations and individual practitioners as outlined below.

CACD sits at the intersection of creativity, community and public value, cultivating social cohesion, strengthening resilience, and enabling meaningful cultural participation in communities experiencing both opportunity and increasing complexity. It is the social and relational cultural practice that enables communities to participate in, shape and sustain cultural life—making REVIVE’s vision of “a place for every story” achievable in practice.

These are our recommendations to ensure that no community is left behind in Australia’s cultural future:

1. Formal Recognition

Explicitly recognise Community Arts and Cultural development within the new cultural policy as a distinct and essential field of practice.

2. Establish a National CACD Entity

Embed a national body dedicated to CACD within Creative Australia to lead coordination, advocacy, research and sector development.

3. Increased investment in CACD practice

Supporting local arts initiatives that strengthen social cohesion and foster belonging in Australian communities

4. Invest in Workforce & Practice Sustainability

Support training, mentoring, wellbeing and trauma-informed practice frameworks specific to the needs of CACD practice.

5. Reform Funding Models

Shift to long-term, place-based and relational investment models for CACD practice.

6. Embed CACD Across Policy Areas

Position CACD across health, disaster management, climate adaptation, justice, education and regional development.

7. Strengthen Research & Evaluation

Further develop national CACD data, impact measurement and evidence frameworks.

8. Equity of Access

Ensure equitable access to funding, resources and participation nationwide.

To deliver on REVIVE’s vision, the government must invest in the people, practices and relationships that ensure those often-invisible stories are seen, heard and valued. CACD is that infrastructure and must be recognised, resourced and embedded as the cornerstone of Australia’s cultural future.

CACD is a nationally embedded, practice-led field of arts and cultural activity that leads to social cohesion, resilience and collective wellbeing. However, despite its national reach and impact, it is not explicitly recognised within the current REVIVE policy framework. Without CACD, REVIVE risks overlooking the primary mechanism through which many Australians meaningfully engage with arts and culture.

Despite its central role in delivering public value, CACD remains structurally under-recognised and under-resourced within national funding frameworks. CACD is not a niche artform—it is a cross-cutting methodology underpinning work across First Nations arts and culture, theatre, music, dance, visual arts, literature, digital media and community-led initiatives. As a result, there is no consistent mechanism to track or report CACD-aligned investment. This produces a systemic distortion of undercounting, undervaluation and policy misalignment. This is not simply a reporting issue—it has material policy consequences. The under-recognition of CACD limits the effectiveness of national cultural policy itself.

To realise all five pillars of REVIVE, CACD must be recognised, resourced and embedded as a cornerstone of Australia's cultural future.