

National Cultural Policy Submission

1470115

Public and anonymous

Individual

Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

My name is [REDACTED]. I am based in [REDACTED], and I work as a potter / writer / educator.

Craft has been my life for the better part of 30 years now - I fell into it at a time when craft centres in capital cities were common-place; UNSW had specialist craft practitioners amidst its design faculty, Object gallery was around the corner and ADC down the road, the neighbourhood surrounding them dotted with craft and design galleries and studios. At national gatherings I met makers from similar craft centres around the country - networking opportunities that saw me travel far and wide, working with and learning from makers around the country.

Over the years I have seen, despite the dramatic surge in popular enthusiasm for my craft, the landscape denuded - access to quality education has become almost non-existent - replaced by expensive workshops catering to those who can afford the privilege.

I now run my own studio, and trying to create opportunities for young, marginalised makers whilst also paying the bills and keeping the doors open is increasingly challenging. I don't want to see craft become a leisure activity only for the wealthy. Nor do I want to see the standards diminished until we can no longer see our place in material culture, present and future.

I support the three asks made by the Australian Craft and Design Centres (ACDC) network in their submission to this consultation: a 10-year workforce development plan that addresses skills and training shortages for craftspeople and designers; the establishment of a dedicated craft and design structure within Creative Australia, with its own mandate to advocate for the sector, develop funding pathways, and coordinate across government; and an export and tourism development strategy that positions Australian makers in international markets, including at showcase events like Milan Design Week.