

National Cultural Policy Submission

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Public and anonymous

Individual



Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

At its core, a nation's cultural policy should be about enriching our collective inner lives, broadening our empathy, and sparking a chain reaction of new creative work. By investing in our stories, we don't just uplift our local communities—we also open up new commercial avenues and build a powerful, exportable soft-power engine that showcases Australia to the world.

To actually make this happen, we need to start at the grassroots level with community programs that reconnect young people with the joys of reading and writing. Imagine a monthly literary journal, backed by the ABC and styled after McSweeney's, giving young, emerging writers a real, tangible venue for their voices. Alongside this, we should invest in local reading and writing centres that serve as intergenerational hubs. These spaces could bring together elderly residents looking for connection and a place to share their love of books, with schoolchildren who just need a safe, supportive environment to study and improve their writing after hours.

We shouldn't stop at the page, either. This same community infrastructure could easily expand to include film clubs and workshops. Today, technology has made it easier than ever to write and shoot a masterpiece; what's missing is a bit of encouragement. By giving people the tools, the space, and the \,permission\, to create, we can foster a deep appreciation for the arts and dramatically boost our nation's creative output from the ground up.