

National Cultural Policy Submission

1470220

Public and anonymous

Individual



Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

As an independent artist who has worked now for more than 30 years as a writer of plays, poetry, a theatre maker and an arts educator I have always had another job. This job has sometimes been in fields outside the arts (e.g. administration in palliative care or finance, hospitality) and sometimes within (e.g. marketing and grant writing for arts organisations). I cannot advocate strongly enough for a living wage for artists as has been modelled in countries like Ireland and France. Class and income are increasingly a tyrannic barrier to young people entering the arts as a career and indeed to older artists who leave the sector due to financial pressures. Australia does not have a big enough population to sustain the arts in a commercial sense. It fills me with sorrow how little public respect and acknowledgement is paid to the arts given how crucial it is to the life blood, health and identity of any society. Artists work hard, care about their work, about each other, about the word. Invest in us so we can continue to do our work, so we don't burn out and leave and so new and young artists are not put off from pursuing and developing their own arts practice.