

National Cultural Policy Submission

1470261

Public

Organisation

Warnayaka Art and Cultural Aboriginal Corporation

Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

Warnayaka Art and Cultural Aboriginal Corporation welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the development of the National Cultural Policy.

We are a community-controlled Aboriginal art and culture centre based in Lajamanu, NT, representing 160 Warlpiri artists and 12 Warlpiri arts workers. Our centre is part of a network of remote and regional art and culture centres that has grown over more than 50 years into a nationally and internationally recognised sector.

Art and culture centres are much more than places where art is made and sold. At Warnayaka, our work is grounded in culture and supports a wide range of outcomes for our community. This includes supporting artists to pass on culture to future generations, creating local employment opportunities, and providing a space for the community to gather, share stories, and strengthen community wellbeing and connection.

This work is essential, but it is becoming increasingly difficult to sustain.

Like many remote art and culture centres, we face rising operational costs and ongoing challenges relating to staffing, infrastructure, cost of living, freight, fuel, and access. While some of these challenges are reflected in current funding settings, not all are, placing increasing strain on our ability to continue this work.

We support ANKA and the alliance of national peak bodies (AACHWA, ANKA, Desart, IACA and Ku Arts) in their call for a coordinated, long-term approach to strengthening Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art and culture centres.

In particular, we support:

- * increased core funding to stabilise the sector
- * better recognition and remuneration of the full role art and culture centres play across culture, community and economy
- * a long-term plan to strengthen centres, including workforce, infrastructure and governance
- * stronger recognition of culture within national policy frameworks.

Art and culture centres play a vital role in maintaining culture, supporting communities, and contributing to the broader Australian economy and identity. A strong and sustainable future for our centres is essential to ensure this work can continue for future generations.

We encourage the Australian Government to work in partnership with art and culture centre peak bodies and the sector to ensure policy and funding frameworks reflect the true value and needs of art and culture centres across Australia.

Warnayaka Art and Cultural Aboriginal Corporation thanks you for the opportunity to contribute to this process.