

National Cultural Policy Submission

1470265

Public

Individual

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Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

I would like to propose the development of an official Australian citizenship ceremony playlist to be optionally used nationally across citizenship ceremonies to showcase Australian music and better reflect Australia's cultural identity.

I recently attended an Australian citizenship ceremony and felt that the music played beforehand could better represent the breadth, quality, and diversity of Australian music and Australia. Citizenship ceremonies are among the most significant civic moments in Australian public life. They are emotional and symbolic occasions that mark belonging, identity, and connection to Australia. Music should play a key, intentional role in helping create that experience.

Australia has one of the richest contemporary music cultures in the world. Australian artists have shaped global music across rock, pop, electronic, hip hop, indie, folk, and Indigenous music. Yet there is currently no consistent or nationally curated approach to how Australian music is presented during citizenship ceremonies.

An official citizenship ceremony playlist could help create a stronger sense of national identity while also celebrating Australia's creative industries. The playlist could include both iconic and contemporary Australian artists and should intentionally reflect the diversity of modern Australia, including Indigenous musicians, multicultural voices, emerging artists, and music from different generations and genres.

Importantly, this initiative would provide an opportunity to recognise music as a central part of Australian culture. Citizenship ceremonies occur regularly across the country and provide a unique opportunity to introduce new citizens and their families to Australian cultural storytelling through music.

The playlist would reflect a modern Australia that is creative, multicultural, optimistic, and global. Artists such as PNAU, Gurrumul, Baker Boy, Kylie Minogue, Powderfinger, INXS, Thelma Plum, Troye Sivan, Tame Impala, Sia, the Bee Gees, Holy Holy and many others demonstrate the extraordinary range of Australian music that could be represented.

This proposal would also align strongly with broader goals of supporting Australian music and cultural industries. Government-backed music initiatives already recognise the importance of Australian contemporary music as culturally significant and internationally valuable. Citizenship ceremonies could become another meaningful platform to celebrate and elevate Australian artists.

Citizenship ceremonies should sound unmistakably Australian. A nationally recognised playlist would help create a more memorable, welcoming, and culturally rich experience for new citizens while showcasing one of Australia's greatest cultural strengths: our music.