

National Cultural Policy Submission

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Public and anonymous

Individual



Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

I strongly support the five pillars model and Pillar 1 First Nations First is my #1 priority. Arts funding has historically promoted European art (e.g. Opera Australia) over indigenous arts, and also over the arts of our increasingly diverse migrant population. First Nations were here first and need our proactive support to redress the balance. It also ties in with Pillar 5 engaging audiences in other parts of the world: there's little value in taking Australian-ised European art to Europe for example, but great value in taking Australia's First Nations art to audiences in other countries.

Pillar 3 Centrality of the artist is my #2 priority. There is no art without artists. Currently most artists struggle to survive and have to work other jobs to fund their artistic practice. Funding should be available for generally enabling artists to practice their art (e.g. by providing space, time and freedom from distractions) and not just funding for specific projects or output. This also ties in with Pillar 4 Infrastructure and keeping arts going over time – 12 month funding is too short a horizon for an artist to, say, quit their day job or rent a studio to focus on their art.

Pillar 4 Strong Cultural Infrastructure is my #3 priority. Without infrastructure that meets artists needs or enables multi-year development of artistic projects, funds would be wasted on one-off activities.

Pillar 2 A Place for Every Story is my #4 priority. If Pillars 1, 3 & 4 above are executed properly then there should naturally be a place for every story and every form of art from literature through to performance, dance, theatre, painting, sculpture and conceptual arts.

Pillar 5 Engaging the Audience is my #5 priority. As above, if pillar 1~4 are executed properly then there is content for audience engagement. The last pool of funds can go towards improving literacy, reading and event attendance numbers.