

## National Cultural Policy Submission

1470335

Public

Organisation

Goldfields Aboriginal Language Centre Aboriginal Corporation

Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

We believe the policy does not adequately reflect First Nations world view. It is very Western world view which does not create a culturally safe environment for First Nations' culture. As a document that aims to reflect an Australian perspective, it is imperative that it is capable of articulating the needs of both Western and First Nations cultural needs, capabilities, and practices.

For example, there are many legislations protecting Western cultural forms, and very few protecting First Nations culture. In particular, there is neither national nor state recognition or legislation enshrining First Nations languages. Language is the mouth of culture. There can not be a cultural policy that does not recognise language.

Here is our beliefs on language legislation:

National Language Legislation is needed ASAP

1. Timeframe for implementation, with a commitment for enactment through all levels of government.
2. Thorough consultation with every First Nations language group needed.
3. Languages need to be recognised as the first languages of Australia, prior to legislation. Official languages.
4. Legislating for languages will ensure First Nations voices are recognised.
5. ICIP legislation should dovetail in with this legislation.
6. National legislation should trigger mandatory state and territory legislation.
7. Regulatory requirements for academic rigour around languages should be mandated.
8. Regulatory frameworks for language work should be developed.
9. Statutory bodies need to be mandated under both state and federal legislation.
10. United Nations Rights for Indigenous People – incorporated.
11. Global Sustainable Goals – UN
12. Accountability – hold cultural policy accountable through statutory bodies.

A few points about Languages that are important:

1. Language resilience is paramount
2. Language continuity – scaffold existing languages, recognise language destructive processes and mechanisms e.g. English only in schools, enforced exclusion of language from formal education and marginalisation as a LOTE subject. Marginalising children's cognitive language.
3. Language economies – resourcing to create economies that support, maintain, develop activities that create income through, about, and empowering language.
4. Language ICIP needs legislative protection
5. Intergenerational language transmission – reflective of traditional mechanisms for language learning, contextual, culturally embedded, reflective of linguistic sovereignty. If cultural sovereignty is recognised, then the cultural mechanisms for language learning need to be recognised.

6. Linguistic sovereignty mandated under language legislation
7. Language agency mandated under language legislation – the right to modify, adapt, rejuvenate, and contemporise language by speech community.
8. Recognition of First Nations contemporary creoles and Englishes as languages.