

## National Cultural Policy Submission

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Public and anonymous

Individual



Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

As a voice from regional [REDACTED], Regional communities continue to face significant barriers to accessing funding and artistic opportunities as major cities dominate Australia's cultural landscape. A national cultural policy cannot be truly “national” if it overlooks the needs and contributions of regional communities.

As a part of a local professional company in regional [REDACTED], the support of funding, support in infrastructure and the opportunity to expand the theatre to rural and remote towns would be immensely beneficial.

Firstly, allocation of funding to regional communities often results in regional communities receiving a small part of national arts funding but having to cover a huge geographic area. Therefore a consistent dedicated regional funding should be emplaced, to support professional local artists. Then there are infrastructure gaps. Regional areas do not have the luxury of multiple theatres and studios, and the infrastructure they do have is built either locally, or built and rarely used. We need financial support to help maintain existing community venues.

Now while we are grateful of the few touring circuits regional communities receive, regional remote and rural communities do have better audience to accommodate more frequent and better funding touring. If this means reaching out and creating partnerships with local organisations to make events sustainable then why not? And not only visiting tours, but as a remote and regional town we would like the funding support and opportunity to tour our local artists to rural communities and other regional and major cities.

final decisions in regards to the next national cultural policy SHOULD INVOLVE REGIONAL PEOPLE, REMOTE VOICES and RURAL REPRESENTATION. Capital cities are very different from regional communities and have different needs. We need to eliminate this “one-size-fits-all” mindset and focus on what is required to make all rural, remote and regional communities thrive.