

## National Cultural Policy Submission

1470355

Public

Individual

James Lavercombe



Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

My name is James Lavercombe. I am based in [REDACTED], and I work as a [REDACTED]..

I am a late-age artist, beginning this new and delightful chapter at 55. Thanks to local [REDACTED] fashion designer [REDACTED], my artwork has been incorporated into a collection showcased in New York, Melbourne, Perth and Florence. None of this would have been possible without [REDACTED] dedication, professionalism, and the support of the wider [REDACTED] arts community.

In addition, Brunswick Street Gallery, through its “Fifty Squared” art prize, provided me with my first opportunity to participate in a gallery exhibition. Experiences like these demonstrate how vital arts organisations, galleries, and creative communities are in supporting emerging artists at every stage of life.

Without proper investment in Australia’s arts sector, we risk losing far more than entertainment. The arts preserve and express our national identity, support local stories, strengthen communities, and create pathways for emerging artists. They contribute to education, wellbeing, tourism, and the broader creative economy, while enriching everyday public life. Continued investment is especially vital for regional practice and Indigenous cultural expression, ensuring diverse Australian voices continue to be seen and heard. A strong arts sector is not a luxury — it is part of a healthy, imaginative and connected society, and an essential investment in Australia’s cultural future.

I support the three asks made by the Australian Craft and Design Centres (ACDC) network in their submission to this consultation: a 10-year workforce development plan that addresses skills and training shortages for craftspeople and designers; the establishment of a dedicated craft and design structure within Creative Australia, with its own mandate to advocate for the sector, develop funding pathways, and coordinate across government; and an export and tourism development strategy that positions Australian makers in international markets, including at showcase events like EFWA Sustainable Fashion Festival in Florence.