

National Cultural Policy Submission

1470360

Public and anonymous

Organisation

Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

Our public gallery has benefitted enormously from the National Gallery's Art Across Australia programs, which have enabled our regional community to access high quality artworks. We would see the continuation of this support as vital to our community.

It is also imperative that the National Gallery continues the Sharing the National Collection program, as it provides important access to significant artworks that belong to all Australians.

Local government-owned public galleries in [REDACTED] have been negatively impacted by [REDACTED] State Government rate capping, which has meant the allocation of funds to artists has not kept pace with rising costs, meaning that each year we engage fewer and fewer artists in paid work. We would welcome initiatives that enable artists to access paid work in regional public galleries, especially those in [REDACTED] whose funding levels are effectively in decline.

Another key focus in our region is arts education, with no formal opportunities being offered within our region of 42,000 square kilometers, forcing students to travel long distances (up to 500kms) to access education opportunities. We would welcome initiatives that encourage and enable opportunities for art education in regional areas.

Arts programs are often considered separate and unique from other government policy areas, however we would encourage the federal government to look at opportunities for collaboration across sectors, such as health, education and rural affairs, which would mutually benefit and complement arts programs. For instance, future programs might see artists working in hospitals, educators working in galleries, and artists engaging with rural infrastructure. In such a way arts and culture would be embedded within all facets of Australian life.

We also need to get better at showing why art and culture is important to Australian life, such as the economic benefits it brings. A top-down initiative of educating the Australian people as to the vital need for art and culture would encourage a more inclusive and engaged population. Art and culture is how we tell our stories, so we need to ensure these stories are preserved and celebrated as part of our Australian way of life.