

National Cultural Policy Submission

1470406

Public and anonymous

Individual



Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

I've been concerned by a number of recent incidences of censorship and political interference in arts organisations and the work of artists. I am an author of literary realism with two published books and one forthcoming. In writing the forthcoming book, I've noticed for the first time in my life that I've had a minor concern about receiving potential censorship or punishment for writing about certain themes, in particular, writing characters who voice their solidarity with Palestinians, or who declare an issue with the military behaviour of the state of Israel. While I haven't let it influence the words on the page, there is certainly a part of me that suspects my opportunities as an artist will be taken away from me as a result of what I've written. This is new, and it is not conducive to the making of good art. I urge the National Cultural Policy to address the freedom of artists to write honestly, and accurately, without fear of reprisal from lobby groups influencing government artistic policy.