

National Cultural Policy Submission

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Public and anonymous

Individual



Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

The new National Cultural Policy represents a chance to improve the lives of all Australians, by helping boost our artists so they may in turn, produce wonderful and thought-provoking works for everyone to enjoy. My personal experience and opinion relates to the current contemporary music industry only, specifically in [REDACTED] but relevant nationally.

I strongly feel that there is a dearth of government-supported opportunities of any kind for young men entering the music industry, especially young white men. In fact, that group of Australians is being actively discriminated against by most of the music bodies and organisations set up by or funded by state and federal governments. It really saddens me that current policies actively prejudice against this young generation of male musicians - they can tick no boxes on any of the forms, which then rules them out of countless opportunities for further training and career growth. We all want to \,level the playing field\, but the pendulum has swung too far away. Younger generations are now being penalised for the unfairness experienced by previous generations. Opportunities and support programs should be for all musicians, not just some who tick the boxes.

Over and over again, young white male musicians are being locked out of early career opportunities based on their demographic. It's happening industry-wide because the policy starts at the top, with the Federal Government. No policy should disadvantage a generation of any specific demographic, so please consider levelling the playing field for all participants, through the new National Cultural Policy.

I have also noticed an absolute dearth of support, training and funding opportunities for young, emerging musicians in general. It is more than a gap, it is a chasm when compared to other creatives and other age groups. The Federal Government offers large funding and touring packages for mid-career musicians and huge funding packages for musicians' organisations (who pick and choose the demographics they support, see above) - but there is very little to nothing being done for emerging musicians. If they are lucky enough to get into and then graduate from university with a music degree and a student debt - what then? There are no organisations set up specifically to boost young creative music careers. There is less for young musicians than for other young creatives.

Economically, life is especially challenging for young musicians. The new National Cultural Policy needs to boost commercial opportunities for Australian musicians by encouraging and building new partnerships between the music and sporting industries. This would boost audience development for the musicians while also providing entertainment for a sporting crowd at a game or competition event. These sorts of partnerships should become the norm, and would be a better use of government funding than many of the current funding arrangements given to layer upon layer of music organisations where nothing filters down to young emerging musicians at all.