

National Cultural Policy Submission

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Public and anonymous



Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

I am an Australian theatre maker, performer, educator and artistic director [REDACTED] creating participatory and intergenerational work across theatre, sound, public art and live performance. My practice spans over twenty years and includes work with young audiences, large scale public participation and international collaboration. I strongly support the submission made by the Australian Live Performance Export Alliance to recognise live performance export and international engagement as critical to the careers of Australian artists, the reputation of Australia overseas and the long term viability of the performing arts ecology.

I also support the broader concerns raised by Belvoir St Theatre [REDACTED] [REDACTED] regarding the sustainability of Australia's freelance arts workforce and the urgent need to place more artists, artistic risk and artistic possibility at the centre of our cultural infrastructure.

Australia has extraordinary artists, but the systems supporting them are increasingly fragile. Across the independent and small to medium sector, artists are carrying unsustainable financial, emotional and administrative loads simply to keep creating work. The cost of living continues to rise while opportunities for long term artistic development, experimentation and touring are shrinking. Many artists are spending more time applying for funding, producing work independently and managing organisational survival than actually making art.

International engagement is one of the most important ways Australian artists build sustainable careers, create cultural exchange and contribute to Australia's global identity. Yet international touring and collaboration are becoming increasingly difficult. Rising freight, travel, visa, insurance and accommodation costs have made many international opportunities financially impossible, even when there is strong presenter demand for Australian work overseas.

My own project, [REDACTED], has received strong interest and commissioning support from Australian and international presenters because it offers large scale participatory experiences that bring communities together through sound, imagination and collective listening. However, the pathway from artistic demand to viable international touring remains incredibly precarious. Without coordinated support, many ambitious Australian works simply cannot reach global audiences.

I would like to see the new National Cultural Policy place greater value on long term artistic development, freelance sustainability and international cultural exchange. I support the six headline recommendations put forward by the Australian Live Performance Export Alliance, including dedicated live performance export funding, matched presenter investment models, international disruption support and stronger cross government coordination between arts, trade, tourism and foreign affairs.

I would also like to see greater investment in children's arts, participatory practice and culturally ambitious public artworks that create connection across generations and communities. Art is not a luxury. It is part of how societies imagine, gather, reflect and care for one another.

At a time when the world feels increasingly divided and fast moving, Australia has an opportunity to champion culture not only as an economic driver, but as a vital civic and human force.

