

National Cultural Policy Submission

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Public

Individual

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Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

As a regionally based community artist, I strongly support the submission from the National Alliance of Community Arts and Cultural Development (CACD) organisations and individuals. Australia's next National Cultural Policy must formally recognise and invest in CACD as essential cultural infrastructure, particularly in regional and remote communities where arts practice is often the primary means of cultural participation, connection and storytelling. CACD operates at the intersection of creativity and community, delivering social cohesion, resilience and meaningful participation across the country. In places like regional and remote Australia, these outcomes are not supplementary, they are critical. Artists and arts organisations in these communities frequently work with limited resources while responding to complex social, environmental and economic challenges. CACD provides the relational and creative frameworks that allow communities to remain connected, adaptable and visible. Despite its broad national impact, CACD is not explicitly recognised within the current REVIVE framework. This omission creates a significant policy gap. Without formal recognition, a practice that directly advances equity, access and participation remains undervalued and under-supported. For many Australians, particularly those outside metropolitan centres, CACD is the primary mechanism through which they engage meaningfully with arts and culture. Excluding it from policy recognition risks excluding the lived realities of regional and remote communities. CACD is not a niche artform; it is a methodology embedded across sectors including education, health, justice, climate adaptation and disaster recovery. While only a small percentage of national arts investment is explicitly attributed to CACD, this figure does not reflect its true reach or impact. Much of the work is dispersed across multiple funding streams and remains inconsistently measured, resulting in systemic undervaluation and a failure to align investment with policy commitments to inclusion and cultural democracy. Importantly, CACD delivers measurable outcomes across multiple domains. It strengthens belonging and social cohesion, improves wellbeing, creates workforce pathways, supports local economies and enhances civic participation. In regional and remote areas, where communities often experience isolation, climate vulnerability and reduced access to cultural infrastructure, these outcomes are especially important. CACD enables communities to tell their own stories, preserve local identity and build collective capacity in times of uncertainty and change. CACD also directly advances all five pillars of REVIVE. It supports First Nations self-determination, amplifies diverse voices, recognises community-based artists as essential cultural workers, and prioritises active participation over passive consumption. Its impact is particularly significant for First Nations peoples, culturally diverse communities, disabled communities, young people, and communities affected by disaster or geographic isolation. I support the recommendations outlined in the CACD submission, including formal recognition of CACD within the National Cultural Policy. CACD must be recognised, properly measured and adequately resourced as a cornerstone of Australia's cultural future. Without this commitment, the policy risks falling short of its stated goals of equity, participation and inclusion, particularly for regional Australia