

National Cultural Policy Submission

1470960

Public

Individual

KATIE-ANN HOUGHTON



Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

My name is Katie-Ann Houghton. I am based in [REDACTED] and work as a glass maker, designer, and educator.

For the past 20 years, I have worked across the craft and design sector in a variety of capacities and venues throughout Australia. This has provided me with opportunities to work, connect, and exhibit extensively throughout my career. Living in [REDACTED], I regularly travel to access the facilities at Canberra Glassworks, without which I would not be able to practise my craft.

The funding cuts that have affected both the arts and arts education sectors over the past decade are already becoming increasingly evident within our communities. We have seen a significant decline in student numbers, as well as in the number of highly skilled graduates prepared to enter the workforce within the sector. As a result, institutions such as JamFactory and Canberra Glassworks have taken on the responsibility of developing programs that support emerging artists in reaching a skill level that enables sustainable careers. Without this support, we risk a further loss of skilled makers within these industries and, ultimately, the loss of Australia's international voice in these sectors.

I support the three asks made by the Australian Craft and Design Centres (ACDC) network in their submission to this consultation: a 10-year workforce development plan that addresses skills and training shortages for craftspeople and designers; the establishment of a dedicated craft and design structure within Creative Australia, with its own mandate to advocate for the sector, develop funding pathways, and coordinate across government; and an export and tourism development strategy that positions Australian makers in international markets, including at showcase events like Milan Design Week.