

## National Cultural Policy Submission

1470963

Public

Individual

Eugenia Neave



Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

My name is Eugenia Neave. I am based in [REDACTED], and I work as a shoemaker.

I am a bespoke shoemaker that crafts one off shoes centred around individual needs, whether that be creative or medical (or both). Craft specifically to me is the slow practice of making considered things, practical things with purpose and beauty.

In my industry of bespoke shoemaking there is an absence of investment, other than the time and money of shoemakers themselves. With this is the very real risk that the industry with its skills will disappear in the foreseeable future. I'm conscious that I am one the last people left that can deliver this service to the community. With this is the loss of the skills and services to Australians who need bespoke footwear. My sector has been disappearing for years. Techniques and skills are being lost. Support to enable teaching and mentoring could provide a pathway to a sustainable industry and skill resource for Australia.

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.