

**National Cultural Policy Submission**

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Individual

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Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

The National Cultural Policy (Revive) presents an important and timely reset for Australia's arts and cultural sector. Its recognition of artists as workers, its commitment to First Nations leadership, and its investment in cultural infrastructure and audiences signal a meaningful shift in valuing the role of culture in national life. The policy's vision of "a place for every story" establishes a strong foundation for a more inclusive and dynamic cultural landscape. [artslaw.com.au]

However, from a regional and outer-metropolitan perspective, there is a critical need to more deeply embed the realities facing artists and arts workers outside inner-city centres. Across Australia, increasing costs of living and ongoing urban gentrification have significantly reduced access to affordable housing, studios, and workspaces in major cities. As a result, many emerging artists and arts workers are being pushed out of traditional cultural hubs, disrupting established pathways for early career development and sector connection.

This shift is not simply a challenge—it represents a structural transformation of where and how culture is being produced. Regional and outer-metropolitan communities are now home to a growing and diverse creative workforce. Yet, this redistribution has not been matched with equivalent investment in infrastructure, professional development, or sector connectivity. Without targeted support, there is a risk that creative practitioners working in these areas remain isolated from opportunity, visibility, and sustainable career pathways.

To address this imbalance, the policy must more explicitly support regional and outer-metropolitan creative ecologies. This includes increased funding for affordable workspaces, residencies, and long-term development opportunities for emerging artists and arts workers. It also requires expanded access to professional development, including mentoring, skills training, and pathways into broader industry networks, ensuring that geography does not limit participation in the national cultural conversation.

Equally, the policy's emphasis on new technologies presents a significant opportunity for regional transformation. Digital platforms, hybrid programming, and creative technologies have the potential to connect artists to national and global audiences, regardless of location. However, this potential can only be realised through investment in digital infrastructure, training, and experimentation at the local level. Supporting artists to adapt to and lead within these evolving modes of practice is essential to building resilient and future-focused creative industries.

Importantly, regional arts practice is inherently community-connected. Artists in these contexts often play vital roles as facilitators, educators, and cultural leaders within their communities. Investment in regional arts therefore delivers broader outcomes—strengthening social cohesion, contributing to local economies, and supporting wellbeing and cultural identity.

While Revive acknowledges the importance of infrastructure and engagement across the sector, there remains an opportunity to more strongly centre place-based cultural development that reflects the distinct conditions of regional and outer-metropolitan Australia. Innovation is not confined to capital cities; it is actively emerging in distributed, community-driven contexts where artists are redefining contemporary practice.

A truly national cultural policy must recognise that