

National Cultural Policy Submission

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Public

Individual

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Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

New National Cultural Policy

As an artist who has spent decades contributing to Australia's cultural life, I believe the National Art School deserves federal support as a nationally significant institution.

There is no question the National Art School legacy is extraordinary: with more than a century of teaching on its historic Darlinghurst campus, it has shaped generations of artists and made a profound contribution to the cultural life of this country.

Its standing in the art world is reflected not only in its remarkable alumni, many of whom have helped define Australian art, but in the enduring respect the School commands as a place where serious practice, experimentation and ideas are given time to develop. What distinguishes the School is its unwavering commitment to studio teaching and the sustained, hands-on, practice-led learning that is essential to the development of serious artists.

In an era when such models are increasingly difficult to maintain, the National Art School continues to uphold the conditions artists need: time, space, technical expertise, intellectual challenge and critical rigour. These are not luxuries. They are the foundation of artistic excellence.

The School's impact extends well beyond its campus through the artists it trains, the ideas it generates, the exhibitions and public programs it presents, and the broader cultural ecology it supports. It remains one of the few places in Australia where intensive studio education is still understood as central to artistic formation. Federal investment would recognise what the sector already knows: that the National Art School is not only a vital educational institution, but a national cultural asset whose influence has been felt across Australian art for generations.

Supporting it at a federal level would be an investment in Australia's artistic future.

Joan Ross

Artist, 

National Art School alum and Fellow