

National Cultural Policy Submission

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Public and anonymous

Individual



Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

Creating a National Cultural Policy is an important and overdue initiative. Artists and creatives are at the core of culture, and culture is crucial to the formation of a strong and unified community and national identity. In short, Australia will be a more cohesive country with an identity that everyone feels a part of by celebrating artists, writers, musicians, film makers and creatives in the same way as sports heroes.

To do this, there needs to be more promotion of the 'names' of the creatives behind the works. And more financial assistance for those who dedicate their lives to enriching culture.

For instance, it may take years for a writer to write and sell a novel. Such creatives should receive a tax break to assist with this process in much the same way a business start-up would receive assistance.

Writers are poorly paid, yet they must pay tax on winnings whereas winners of other similar types of competitions receive tax-free prize money. This is unfair, unsupportive and needs to be rectified.

Countries, such as Ireland, that have strong financial support for writers have developed some of the most awarded writers in the world. More development opportunities and financial assistance or tax breaks for creatives would help creatives focus more time on creative works and reduce the need to spread themselves thin in multiple jobs, which reduces creative output and quality.

Support for the publishing industry, and the publication and film development of Australian stories, is essential to creating and keeping pace with Australia's morphing national identity.