

## National Cultural Policy Submission: QACI School Council

**Queensland Academies Creative Industries (QACI) School Council** welcomes the opportunity to contribute to Australia's evolving National Cultural Policy and strongly encourages the Federal Government to recognise young people and specialist creative secondary schools as distinct stakeholder groups within Cultural Policy consultation and development. **Young people are not simply inheriting Australia's cultural future. They are already helping shape it.**

QACI is a selective-entry state school for Years 10–12 specialising in creative industries education and the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme. QACI is currently the only IB school in the Southern Hemisphere offering all five IB Group 6 Arts subjects – Dance, Music, Theatre, Visual Arts and Film. QACI integrates rigorous academic learning with interdisciplinary creative practice across these five subject areas. Students engage not only as emerging artists, but as future cultural workers, entrepreneurs, educators, audiences and civic contributors. This positions QACI as a significant stakeholder in national conversations around arts education, creative industries pathways and future cultural capability.

Because QACI is a school grounded in critical and collaborative thinking, QACI School Council believes this consultation also presents an opportunity to consider 'arts learning, training and pathways' as the sixth pillar within the National Cultural Policy, as proposed by National Advocates for Arts Education (NAAE).

While the existing five pillars provide an important foundation, QACI School Council supports NAAE's position that arts education underpins each of them. We believe schools should be recognised as critical sites of cultural participation, creative development and workforce formation.

The NAAE submission highlights that "young people are not only future audiences, but current cultural participants and emerging creative practitioners." QACI School Council strongly agrees with this framing. Students currently undertaking specialist creative education pathways represent Australia's emerging cultural and creative workforce. Yet secondary students and specialist arts schools are rarely engaged in policy discussions shaping the future cultural landscape they will inherit. This is particularly significant in the context of increasing demand for innovation and creative capability ahead of Brisbane 2032.

QACI School Council encourages the Federal Government to:

- establish **dedicated youth consultation mechanisms** within cultural policy development;
- **engage specialist creative schools** like QACI as strategic stakeholders;
- **strengthen alignment** between cultural and education policy and future workforce planning;
- **include a sixth pillar** in the National Cultural Policy – Arts Learning, Training and Pathways – as proposed by NAAE.

**If Australia's next National Cultural Policy seeks to shape the country's cultural future, then the young people already helping shape that future must also have a meaningful voice within it.**

*Submitted by Anne Metcalfe, Chair, on behalf of QACI School Council, 21 May 2026*

QACI School Council is established under the Queensland Department of Education's Independent Public Schools governance framework and operates in accordance with the *Education (General Provisions) Act 2006 (Qld)*. The Council is constituted by elected and appointed parent, staff and community members, together with the Principal and two student representatives, and provides strategic advice and support on the school's vision, partnerships, reputation, community engagement and long-term direction. [REDACTED]