

National Cultural Policy Submission

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Public

Individual

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Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

I am very happy to read the philosophy behind Revive however some of the points it spruiks have not been achieved in any practical way in the real world. I write today specifically as a longstanding independent documentary maker and I can assure you that the streamers who are operating in Australian territories do not commission Australian documentaries. They have cannabalised our audiences (and now they also attract advertisers away from traditional broadcasters) yet they do not support local industry. There are fewer and fewer places to pitch a one-off true independent film that is not a formatted lifestyle, 'factual' or 'unscripted' program - or news and current affairs. Documentaries are generally inexpensive to make yet are invaluable to our culture. The best ones hold up the mirror to society or allow the audience a depth of exploration into a world they would otherwise never access. So many of my peers are in the mass exodus to do something else... I am still hanging in there. We have been lucky to have our film supported by government funding in the past, but without commissioning platforms this career is not sustainable. I fear greatly for the generations of brilliant people coming behind me who will have barely a chance to develop their creative abilities. Please make proper genuine quotas for the American Streamers if you want our industry to survive. A country without documentaries is like a family without a photo album...