

National Cultural Policy Submission

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Public

Individual

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Short submission (text box 500 words or less).

As a social documentary photographer & artist - with a photographic collection in a few major collections (City of Sydney, Australian Queer Archives -Melbourne & NSW State Library)., I have remained an activist for the queer community for over 40 years. We have to be a country that is not dominated by media moguls & tech billionaires- which appears to be gaining traction in other democracies. Free speech that is not Racist, Homophobic & in any way demeans people of colour, ability or sexual orientation should remain a protected part of our culture. Church & State should remain separate. More specific regulations should be made regarding AI, more education should be given thru government funded campaigns. Orgs like Palantir should not be allowed to mine our data & be used as part of surveillance opportunities.

One of my previous professional careers as a Registered Nurse, meant that I was trained to observe people properly- which also allowed me to access & acknowledge humanity from a wide spectrum, hence my experience as a photographer has been a political action over my lifetime. Art schools (& I have been to 4), all taught different disciplines which assisted me in broadening my knowledge & understanding of society & myself, these skills remain the most important guides in my current studio based practice. Hence my passion for learning & education by people for the future. As paper, materials & ways of creating art continues to change, we must continue to develop, recycle & produce artwork than will educate ourselves & others.

Please ensure that democracy remains free from ultra right wing ideology. We have to accept that we are a world leading nation that can help other nations/people less privileged than ourselves. By mixing cultures, mixing talents & maintaining openness to future success we will become stronger & more capable of achieving greater prosperity & outcomes for the future.

I firmly believe we need to Listen much more to our First Nations educators, academics & artists. They have survived and remain the original & greatest asset this country has & needs. We should have said YES YES YES to a Voice to Parliament, so that we could move forward with them.

I'm anti-Zionist and a very proud half Lebanese person, if our country can continue to support open dialogue with Palestinians we will have secured a better future for our world. I have Jewish friends- who are also anti-Zionists and together we have spoken out about the Genocide happening in Gaza (& now Lebanon). Free speech is a cornerstone for democracy.

Also LISTENING & hearing the advice given to us by First Nations people is extremely important. I hope they have stronger representation on the National Cultural Policy Plans.

C.Moore Hardy