

National Cultural Policy Submission

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Public and anonymous

Individual



Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

I welcome the opportunity to contribute to the National Cultural Policy consultation. I am an emerging writer and producer working across scripted film and television, currently developing original projects while completing a



My submission focuses on a persistent structural issue within the Australian screen and arts ecosystem: the lack of genuine, accessible, and sustained support for emerging creative voices, particularly those outside established industry networks.

While Australia has a range of funding bodies, development labs, and talent initiatives, access to meaningful opportunity remains highly competitive, fragmented, and often opaque. In practice, success is frequently shaped not only by merit or originality of voice, but by proximity to industry networks, prior relationships, or institutional familiarity. This creates a system where emerging creators without existing connections face significant barriers to entry, regardless of the strength of their work.

For many early-career practitioners, the pathway into industry is not a clear progression but a series of isolated, high-stakes applications. Development funding is limited, and opportunities are often concentrated around a small number of programs with high submission volumes and low success rates. As a result, many capable storytellers are effectively excluded from sustained career progression after initial attempts, not due to lack of talent, but due to lack of access.

This issue is particularly acute for independent creators developing original IP outside traditional industry pipelines. Without agents, established producers, or commissioning relationships, emerging voices are expected to compete on equal footing in systems that are not structurally equal. The result is a narrowing of creative diversity at the very stage where it should be expanding.

I would encourage the National Cultural Policy to consider reforms that move beyond one-off funding opportunities toward long-term, scaffolded development pathways. This could include expanded early to mid-tier development funding, longer-term creator incubators, and regional or open-access labs that prioritise voice and potential rather than industry track record alone.

Additionally, greater transparency in selection processes and clearer feedback mechanisms would significantly improve equity. Many emerging creators invest substantial time and emotional labour into applications without meaningful insight into decision-making outcomes, making it difficult to grow or improve within the system.

Finally, there is a need to recognise that “emerging talent” is not a temporary category but a critical stage of the cultural ecosystem that requires sustained investment. Without structured support at this level, the industry risks reinforcing existing gatekeeping patterns and limiting the diversity of stories being told on Australian screens.

A healthier cultural sector would not only fund excellence but actively cultivate it by widening access, reducing dependency on informal networks, and ensuring that merit is assessed through more equitable and transparent processes.

Thank you for considering this submission.