



Submission to the New National Cultural Policy Consultation – Flipside Circus | Brisbane Circus Centre, Northshore Hamilton, Queensland

Flipside Circus strongly supports the five pillars laid out in *Revive*. We advocate for specific investment in youth arts practice to recognise the sector's vital role in building the artists and audiences of the future and driving experimentation and innovation.

Flipside is a Brisbane-based nonprofit youth circus organisation operating from the Brisbane Circus Centre on Yagarabul and Turealbul Country. Since 1994, we have built pathways for children, young people and early-career artists – delivering performance, community programs, and contributing to Queensland's broader cultural and creative ecosystem.

We work across performance, industry support, training and community engagement, reaching young people from a wide range of backgrounds including those who face significant barriers to arts participation.

Sitting at the intersection of multiple arts practices, circus tells unique Australian stories through a form that is physically demanding and technically rigorous, deeply communal, and yet frequently invisible in mainstream cultural funding frameworks. For many of the young people we work with, circus is their first sustained engagement with arts practice. It is also, for many, the beginning of a professional creative career.

The evolution of *Revive* is an extraordinary opportunity for the sector with exciting potential to recognise non-traditional and embodied art forms as legitimate pathways into cultural life. Inclusion in policy language matters: it shapes funding eligibility, partnership opportunities, and the signal sent to communities about whose stories and practices count.

Flipside Circus is committed to deepening engagement with First Nations communities and ensuring our programs are accessible and culturally safe. We support the ongoing centrality of First Nations priorities in the next policy, and recognise that meaningful inclusion requires sustained resourcing, not one-off programming.

Our home, the Brisbane Circus Centre represents a significant piece of Queensland's creative infrastructure – a purpose-built space that supports performance, rehearsal, industry development and training. Facilities like this are rare and critical to the long-term health of the sector. Yet infrastructure funding remains one of the most difficult areas for small-to-medium nonprofits to access.

We urge the next policy to continue the focus on addressing the gap between major cultural institutions and the grassroots organisations that do the daily work of building participation. Sustainable multi-year operational funding, support for venue maintenance, and recognition of regional and state-based hubs as national cultural assets would make a material difference.

Conclusion

We strongly advocate for the establishment of dedicated funding streams that recognise the vital role of youth arts practice in supporting the wider cultural ecology.

Youth circus organisations are not simply a training ground; they are the foundation of Australia's professional circus industry. A driver of innovation, experimentation and creative risk-taking vital to a

thriving industry. The pipeline from community training to professional performance runs directly through these organisations. Without a healthy youth circus sector, that pipeline narrows, and the professional industry loses the diversity, depth and renewal it depends on.