

National Cultural Policy Submission

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Public

Organisation

Yinjaa-Barni Art

Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

Yinjaa-Barni Art Aboriginal Corporation welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the development of the National Cultural Policy.

Yinjaa-Barni Art is a not-for-profit Aboriginal Corporation governed by an Aboriginal board of directors and run by an executive manager. Yinjaa-barni is Yindjibarndi for 'staying together'.

Our art centre is based in Ieramugadu/Roebourne in Western Australia's Pilbara region. Yinjaa-Barni Art is a collective of artists who predominately belong to the Yindjibarndi language group and whose ancestral homelands surround the Fortescue River and Millstream Tablelands. We have over 30 artists who work with canvas, creating deeply reflective works of Country.

Yinjaa-Barni Art is a home away from home for our artists and is a central hub to the local community. It is a welcoming place where stories, culture and Country come to life through art. We exist to support our artists, communicate our shared cultures with pride, and inspire connection, healing, and understanding across communities and generations.

First Nations First is at the heart of our objectives as an organization. We seek to encourage the development in all forms, supporting artistic and professional development of our artists and arts workers through diverse opportunities. This work is essential to the continuation of our incredible art centre, however it is becoming increasingly difficult to sustain.

Alongside many remote art and culture centres, we face rising operational costs and ongoing challenges in areas such as infrastructure, climate impact and the overall cost of living. This impacts our daily operations as we currently do not have the facilities to sustain continued growth and keep providing unique opportunities for our artists. Through strong cultural infrastructure we will be able to continue building the foundations for the next generation of artists.

To continue supporting our artists and community we encourage an increased commitment of funding to sustain operational functions and develop further initiatives to create legacy and engagement locally and nationally.

We support the alliance of national peak bodies' (AACHWA, ANKA, Desart, IACA and Ku Arts) and call for a coordinated, long-term approach to strengthening Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art and culture centres.

This can be through infrastructure initiatives, access to sustained operational funding and continued integration of culture into national policy frameworks.

Art and culture centres play a vital role in maintaining culture, supporting communities and contributing to the broader Australian economy and identity. A strong and sustainable future for our centres is essential to ensure this work can continue for future generations.

We encourage the Australian Government to work in partnership with the art and culture centre peak bodies and the sector to ensure that policy and funding frameworks reflect the true value and needs of art and culture centres across Australia.

Yinjaa-Barni Art Aboriginal Corporation thanks you for the opportunity to contribute to this process.