

National Cultural Policy Submission

1471550

Public

Individual

Alexander Moffat



Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

I work as a writer and musical comedian. I've working in the arts industry for about nine years, recently touring my award winning one-man show within Australia and overseas. I've engaged in the sector as a worker at an intimate cabaret venue in the heart of Prahran, and I've been writing new musical works and plays since graduating high school in 2013. I have been a part of Melbourne Fringe Festival, both as a performing artist and producer, and as a judge. I've found this open access festival incredibly helpful for propelling my career and opportunities forward, with their award recognition, industry networking events and as a hub for a community of artists. I've received grants from my local council, Kingston, both to engage in overseas touring, and to develop new work. These programs have helped me to develop my career, networks and have provided resources towards both myself, my work and other artists engaging in my projects. I'd love to see more grants and festival funding that help alleviate the risk on independent artists, so that others like myself can contribute to make work that sustains us and engages with audiences in Australia and abroad. I'd love to see more funding towards artistic touring that would help alleviate touring costs on artists as well.

I'm concerned about funding cuts to the arts sector and to open access festivals like Fringe, and the trickle down effect this has on self-funded artists who are already working well below a living wage. I'd love to see more access funding made available to all independent artists within the sector to aid with costs such as AUSLAN interpreted performances. I'd like more transparency and say within arts institutions about their spending, and I'd like to see more emerging artists with resources for understand their industry, with mentorship on how to create sustainable careers.

I'd love to see:

- more microgrants
- affordable rehearsal spaces
- artist wage protections
- lower festival fees
- regional touring support
- simplified grant applications
- accessible venues
- arts education funding
- long-term operational funding