

National Cultural Policy Submission

1471650

Public and anonymous

Individual

Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

Executive Summary

This submission supports a stronger and more equitable national cultural policy that explicitly recognises and resources Culturally and Racially Marginalised (CaRM), underrepresented Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CaLD), migrant, refugee, diaspora and forced migration communities across Australia's arts and cultural sector.

As a Brasil-born performance artist and arts facilitator working across physical theatre, puppetry, visual theatre and Community Arts and Cultural Development (CACD), I have experienced both the value and the limitations of existing cultural frameworks. While diversity is often acknowledged rhetorically, systemic barriers continue to impact access to funding, leadership pathways, artistic freedom and long-term sustainability for CaRM creatives and communities.

REVIVE presents an important opportunity to move beyond representation toward structural equity, accountability and sustained investment.

Recommendations

Strengthen First Nations self-determination and protect Indigenous Cultural Authority and Intellectual Property.

Explicitly name CaRM, underrepresented CaLD, migrant, refugee, diaspora and forced migration communities in policy, funding and reporting frameworks.

Resource a national Anti-Racism and Cultural Equity Strategy aligned with REVIVE and other national frameworks.

Protect freedom of artistic expression and establish independent reporting pathways for racism, censorship, discrimination and institutional interference.

Recognise and resource Community Arts and Cultural Development (CACD) as a distinct and essential sector.

Create protected funding streams and equitable career pathways for CaRM creatives and organisations.

Reform funding systems, assessment processes and definitions of excellence to improve equity and accessibility for CaRM creatives and community-led practice.

Regulate AI and emerging technologies to protect artist consent, copyright, cultural rights and community-held knowledge.

Statement

A national cultural policy must reflect the full complexity and diversity of contemporary Australia. For many CaRM, underrepresented CaLD, migrant and refugee creatives, participation in the arts sector continues to be shaped by structural inequity, institutional gatekeeping and limited long-term support.

Community-engaged and culturally diverse artistic practices are essential cultural infrastructure. They preserve cultural memory, support participation, create pathways for emerging creatives and strengthen social cohesion. However, these practices are often underfunded and undervalued within mainstream funding and institutional systems.

There is an urgent need for sustained investment in anti-racism, cultural equity, leadership development and community-led practice. This includes equitable access to funding, culturally safe workplaces, transparent accountability measures and stronger protections for artistic freedom and freedom of expression.

As an artist working across collaborative and participatory practice, I strongly support recognising Community Arts and Cultural Development (CACD) as a distinct and essential sector, particularly for CaRM communities and regional or outer-suburban areas where access to cultural infrastructure remains limited.

REVIVE has the opportunity to create meaningful structural change by ensuring that CaRM creatives and communities are not only visible within the sector, but resourced, protected, represented and empowered as decision-makers.