

National Cultural Policy Submission

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Public and anonymous



Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

I am an 80 year old, visual artist who, 43 years ago emigrated from Switzerland to this (back then) democratic country.

Since then, and especially in the past 3-4 years, the support for and appreciation of the Arts in Australia has changed. We artists have become insecure, feeling shackled in our work ethic, unsure if one's work will end up as to be declared 'unsuitable' to be displayed or worse, getting us into trouble with the government.

It is my opinion that in order to create strong cultural infrastructure, the arts must remain independent and free from political interference.

The National Cultural Policy must ensure independent and 'arms length' funding processes across federal, state and local government. This includes ensuring that politicians at all levels must not influence or give advice that results in the provision or removal of funding support of a particular project or artist. This is already enshrined in the Creative Australia Act (article 14.2) and needs to be upheld in the National Cultural Policy.

A key action for the National Cultural Policy must be to implement an inquiry into political interference in the arts, including through donations and board membership and lobbying.

Donors must not influence arts organisations and institutions.

Board members with connections to political parties or lobbyists must be removed.