

National Cultural Policy Submission

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Public

Individual

Natalia Elkina



Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

My name is Natalia Elkina. I am based in Brisbane, and I work as a Stained glass maker and designer.

Stained glass and leadlight making is my livelihood and passion. I've learnt from some of the most established stained glass artists in the UK and very proud to be a part of this traditional craft in Australia. The knowledge of the craft is generally only passed from maker to maker in the studio/workshop environment, through apprenticeship and volunteering. It is hugely important to have this tradition going, but will be absolutely impossible without appropriate funding and support from government organisations.

Stained glass craft in Australia is in fragile state. There is not enough representation of contemporary stained glass practices in states galleries and museums, due to a lack of funding in the craft centre. General public does not have an updated view of the craft, often thinking that it is disappeared as an art form all together and noone does it any more. That in turn leads to project managers and architects not to consider stained glass and lead lights as something worth including into new buildings or restoring existing ones.

I support the three asks made by the Australian Craft and Design Centres (ACDC) network in their submission to this consultation: a 10-year workforce development plan that addresses skills and training shortages for craftspeople and designers; the establishment of a dedicated craft and design structure within Creative Australia, with its own mandate to advocate for the sector, develop funding pathways, and coordinate across government; and an export and tourism development strategy that positions Australian makers in international markets, including at showcase events like Milan Design Week.