

**National Cultural Policy Submission**

1471782

Public and anonymous

Organisation



Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

██████████ an indigenous art centre ██████████ serving over 80 artists from across the region. The services and facilities we provide are a vital part of cultural maintenance, creative expression, tourism and mental health and wellbeing.

The issues that we face are in our ability to keep the art centre financially viable and being able invest in growth. As the general cost of operating continues to rise, our IVAIS funding is not keep pace with inflation and our ambitions to create growth.

Specifically we would like to see:

\*An additional \$200,000 per year allocated to our organisation. This is most useful to us when it is part of general admin funding, rather than the artworker fund as we can still fund additional artworker hours through this budget, but can also allocate some of it to much needed building maintenance, materials, the growing cost of water, electricity, comms, freight and travel expenses etc.

\*As an organisation we are funded for less than one fulltime artworker and one manager. We are open 6 days a week and many of the hours that the manager has to work are unpaid as a result of current funding levels. This vital service is relying on the charity and goodwill of staff.

\* With the strain on current staffing it would also be helpful to streamline the process for applying for contestable IVAIS funds. With the current process of needing to complete a full application and then not be successful, we are expending staff hours that we can ill-afford for no benefit. To assist with this a short EOI process should be introduced, and then those that are shortlisted invited to complete full applications.

\*Something that all remote art centres have in common is the high cost of maintaining buildings in harsh environments with inflated contractor rates and very high freight and logistical costs. The introduction of an annual top-up to use specifically for infrastructure and building maintenance without having to apply for this would be extremely useful. This is in respect to maintenance rather than new infrastructure projects.