

Indigenous intercultural submission

National Cultural Policy 2026

Submission

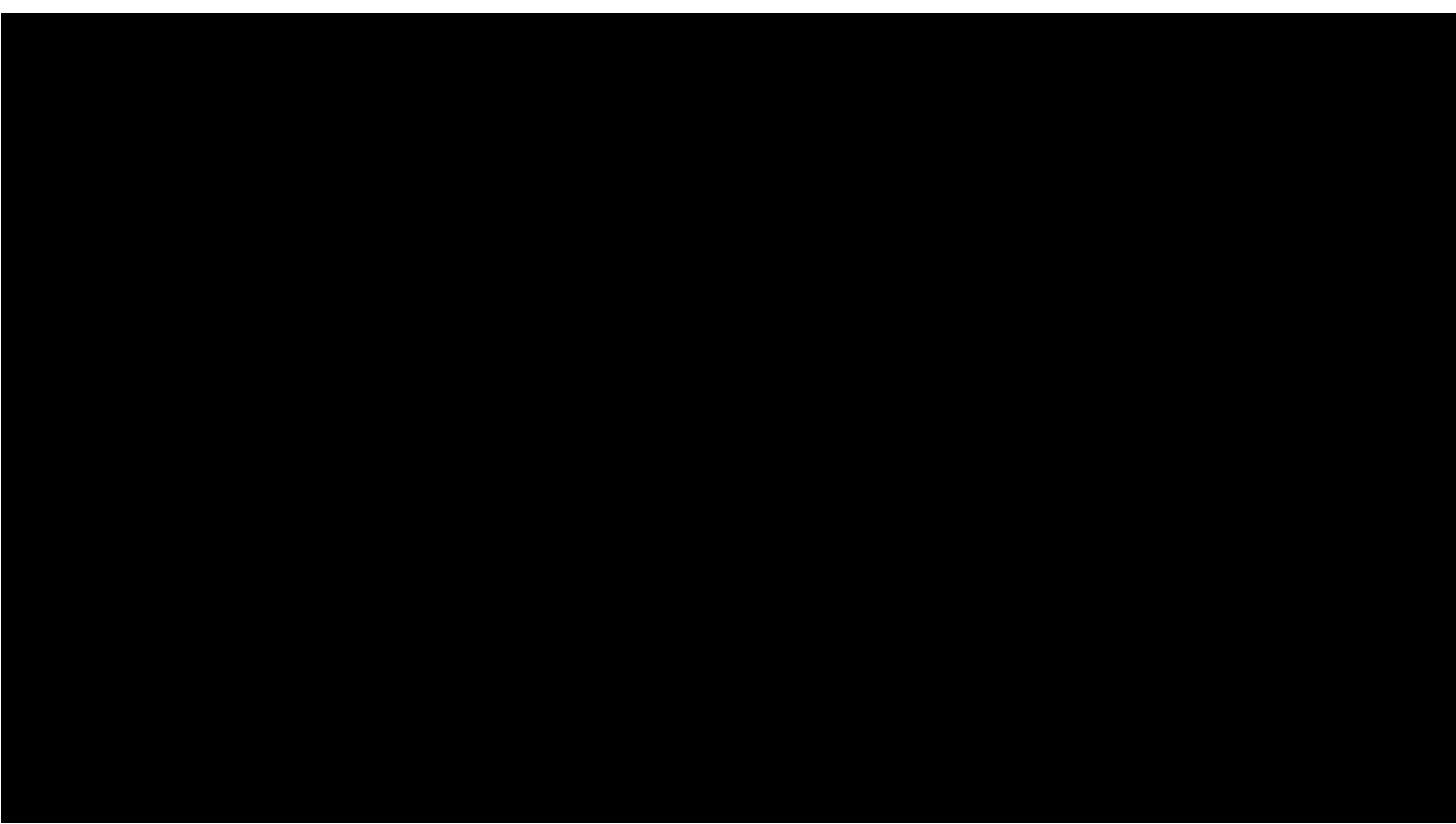
Introduction

First Nations performing arts are essential cultural and social infrastructure, contributing to wellbeing, cultural identity and employment across Australia. Evidence shows that connection to culture is linked to improved social and emotional wellbeing and is recognised as a national priority under [Closing the Gap](#).

Indigenous intercultural practice requires additional governance, time, relationship development and resourcing and must be recognised as a complex and essential part of Australia's cultural infrastructure.

As outlined in the overarching Blak Futures and FNPAC submission, the next phase of *Revive* must move beyond symbolic recognition toward structural implementation and long-term sustainability.

Image: *Jurrungu* Ngan-ga, Marrugeku. Photo: Prudence Upton.



The role of Indigenous intercultural practice

Indigenous intercultural models:

- enable intercultural exchange and collaboration
- expand artistic practice and contemporary performance languages
- embed First Nations governance within collaborative processes
- support long-term relationship building across communities and cultural systems
- contribute significantly to Australia's international cultural engagement and artistic reputation.

Indigenous intercultural practice often operates across multiple cultural systems, governance frameworks, protocols and artistic methodologies simultaneously.

These models require:

- extended relationship development
- negotiation and reciprocity
- cultural accountability
- long-term collaborative exchange

that cannot be accommodated within standard production timelines or transactional funding structures.

Indigenous intercultural practice frequently operates through international collaboration, transnational exchange and long term relationship building between artists, communities and cultural systems.

These models contribute significantly to:

- international touring and exchange
- cultural diplomacy
- co-creation
- reciprocal international relationships.

The policy gap

Current systems:

- treat intercultural work as standard production
- do not account for extended timelines and governance complexity
- do not adequately resource cultural protocols and relationship development
- provide limited support for long-term international intercultural exchange and co creation
- do not structurally support the producer and cultural brokerage labour required to sustain intercultural practice.

This creates pressure on artists and organisations carrying complex cultural and collaborative responsibilities.

Policy priorities

To fully realise Revive and Closing the Gap commitments, policy implementation should:

- recognise Indigenous intercultural practice as a distinct and complex area of cultural infrastructure
- provide longer term development and commissioning investment
- resource cultural governance, protocols and reciprocal relationship development
- support international intercultural exchange and long term collaborative development pathways
- invest in producer and cultural brokerage capacity
- support culturally governed international co creation and touring models
- embed ICIP and cultural governance frameworks across intercultural commissioning and presentation systems.

Supporting these models contributes to cultural exchange while respecting First Nations cultural authority and aligns with Australia's commitments under the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).

Alignment with broader submissions

This submission should be read alongside:

- Overarching Blak Futures and FNPAC submission
- Self-determined First Nations performing arts organisations submission
- First Nations leadership of non-Indigenous companies submission
- First Nations dance submission
- First Nations theatre submission.

Together, these submissions articulate an interconnected ecosystem of First Nations cultural governance, collaboration and artistic practice across the performing arts sector.

Conclusion

Indigenous intercultural practice is not an add on to the cultural sector. It is core to a connected national and international cultural ecology.