

National Cultural Policy Submission

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Public

Individual

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Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

This submission is grounded in core values of: decolonisation, anti-racism, and anti-discrimination; artists as the moral compass of the sector; freedom of artistic expression without limitations; and freedom from political interference in the arts. The forthcoming NCP must address the censorship, political interference, and racism that arts sector faces.

- Decolonisation, anti-racism and anti-discrimination (Pillars: 1 First Nations First; 3 Centrality of the Artist; 4 Strong Cultural Infrastructure):
 - o The National Cultural Policy must actively commit to decolonialism, anti-racism, and anti-discrimination, taking leadership from those in the sector already working from these values.
 - o The IHRA definition of antisemitism must be removed from all arts, cultural and educational institutions and be replaced with the UN Core Stance of Values: “The UN asserts that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights, without distinction of any kind, including race or ethnic origin. It maintains that no state, institution, group, or individual should make any discrimination in human rights and fundamental freedoms.”
- Artists are the moral compass of the sector (Pillar 3: Centrality of the Artist):
 - o The NCP must support artists to continue to be ethical and values-driven leaders.
 - o Artists must be able to speak freely, sign letters, and participate in boycott actions without harming their reputations and livelihoods.
 - o Arts and cultural institutions must support, champion and care for the diverse viewpoints that artists bring.
 - o Artists must not be instrumentalised by institutions, lobbyists, the media and politicians.
- Freedom of speech and artistic expression (Pillars: 3 Centrality of the Artist and 4 Strong Cultural Infrastructure):
 - o Strong cultural infrastructure must be champion artistic freedom of speech. This is already enshrined in the Creative Australia Act (11.e “to uphold and promote freedom of expression in the arts”) but needs to be actively upheld in the National Cultural Policy.
 - o To create strong cultural infrastructure, art must be able to facilitate critical discourse, address political issues, and critique power and class structures without penalty.
 - o The National Cultural Policy must address and prevent the censorship, targeting and cancellation of artists who speak out against injustices, particularly in relation to nations that have been condemned by the UN for acts of apartheid, genocide and war crimes. The culture of intimidation preventing artists from expressing and creating art freely must end.
- Freedom from political interference in the arts (Pillars: 3 Centrality of the Artist and 4 Strong Cultural Infrastructure):
 - o The arts must remain independent and free from political interference. National Cultural Policy must ensure independent ‘arms length’ funding across federal, state and local government, including ensuring that politicians at all levels do not influence or give advice in relation to funding support. This is already enshrined in the Creative Australia Act (article 14.2) but must be actively upheld in the National Cultural Policy.



- o A key action for the National Cultural Policy must be to implement an inquiry into political interference in the arts, including through donations, board membership, and lobbying.
- o Donors must not influence arts organisations and institutions.
- o Board members with connections to political parties or lobbies must be removed.