

Australia's National Cultural Policy

Submission from The Kudos Foundation

Introduction:

The Kudos Foundation, a charitable organisation dedicated to supporting Ancient Greek and Latin studies in Australian universities, has since 2005 contributed to a number of relevant projects in several Australian universities.

Submission:

The Kudos Foundation urges the Australian Government to consider the arts and indeed the humanities in the current geo-political context. Many diverse international cultural traditions are promoted as being of universal relevance and importance. Australian cultural traditions should also be promoted in a competitive way.

Culture is a sector that provides both economic benefits and social cohesion - always crucial factors in a multi-cultural nation. Where the National Cultural Policy website speaks of culture as being both generative and preservative, we would add 'progressive' or a similar word to capture the importance of developing the cultural traditions of Australia with the future in mind.

First Nations cultures and the various cultural traditions of later arrivals should be promoted not only as being ancient and therefore worthy of preservation, or as being relevant only to the present world of all Australians. Indigenous and other systems of belief, tradition and practice are relevant also to shaping Australia's future.

This applies not least to the liberal humanist traditions that help underpin Australian society, and which are in part the special interest of the Kudos Foundation. Some appropriate level of support should in our opinion also be allocated to the conscious and deliberate development of these living cultural

and artistic traditions of various antiquity and geographic origin, including the traditions of ancient Greece and Rome, with a specific view to their potential universal relevance, including to current and future generations of Australians.

Cultural history is the key to our shared values and identity. In the current geo-political environment of competing political and cultural models, some of which are antagonistic to Australian values, it is especially important to foster a shared motivational understanding of who we are, and of the value of our way of life and society.

This strengthening of our understanding and appreciation of our humanist liberal democratic foundations is, we submit, a matter of national interest, perhaps even of national survival.

This consideration should inform the articulation of relevant education curricula, and serve as a criterion in the granting of support to specific cultural productions that also meet the other listed criteria. The Kudos Foundation submits that this support of ancient Greek and Latin traditions will contribute both to Australia's wealth and to Australia's national security. Regarding the tertiary education field, we also submit that the Job Ready Graduate legislation in its present form is not conducive to arts practitioners and researchers achieving this outcome.

The Kudos Foundation

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