

National Cultural Policy Submission

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Public and anonymous

Individual



Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

The new Cultural Policy is inspiring; however, as a Senior volunteering in a small regional gallery, I feel unseen. Promoting Art by Indigenous and young people is crucial to the longevity of this cultural form, but Art created by people now dead or on the way there should not be ignored. Much of this Art can act as a bridge for people who are left unmoved by the Art currently supported by the Policy.

In our gallery, we feature carefully curated Artworks depicting local heritage buildings and landscapes, and we find that visitors feel a connection to Place and value the Art that facilitated this connection. The Art of the past often elicits joy in the visitor and teaches them about history and heritage, and can act as a bridge to exploring other Art forms. It is very much a story of Place but I believe it is ignored in your Policy. Galleries like ours are ignored. We can obtain grants and often do, but grants do not help with day-to-day expenses. We are left to struggle. We do not charge admission so that people of any economic circumstance can visit.

The other, related issue is the pernicious focus on Sport in Australia, which I believe is a scourge. The Competitive Sporting Culture prevalent in Australia encourages misogyny, domestic violence (check statistics around a Grand Final if you don't believe this), anti-intellectualism and tribalism. The culture at Balmoral in Victoria is a lesson to us all (see <https://www.mamamia.com.au/luke-merryfull-shaun-bloomfield/>). Sport in Australia needs to be less prominent, and Art could fill the gap if efforts are made to promote Art that is more accessible and comprehensible to a wider audience in addition to the current emphasis.

Finally, the Arts and Humanities must be better supported in school and university education, so that being considered a job is not a badge of honour.