

**Submission by Megalo Print Studio
in response to “Towards a new National Cultural Policy”
Public Consultation Paper, May 2026**

[Megalo Print Studio](#) is the only contemporary arts studio and organisation in Australia, and one of few worldwide, to provide open access to the full range of print disciplines – screenprint, lithography, relief and intaglio – for artists, creative practitioners and cultural sector professionals at all career stages, as well as the broader community. It is a place for artists to connect, which supports artists with resources and training, and is guided by its long-standing ethos of making printmaking accessible to the whole community.

Responses to a [2025 survey](#) identified the following benefits:

- “Access to presses and the wonderful facilities you have built. A space where we can learn new techniques from experienced printmakers.”
- “Access to equipment that I wouldn’t otherwise have access to and also such a wealth of knowledge between all the staff.”
- “Community and access to the facilities, a shared studio which helps me feel less alone and to find inspiration. And technical support from your wonderful staff. A kind of home.”

Megalo provides essential infrastructure that supports and celebrates artists. Committed to the understanding that open and inclusive access to arts experiences are necessary elements of social cohesion, Megalo is a unique resource for community development.

STRENGTHS AND ALIGNMENT WITH *REVIVE*

IMPACT: Megalo is committed to the idea that art is transformative and impactful. It supports the development of creative practice for artists at all levels: from emerging to established, as well as for school children and hobbyists. This is put into practice through programs focused on creative skills and literacy, and by providing pathways and partnerships to develop the economic, educational and experiential capacities of artists and professionals in the cultural (GLAM) sector. **This work relates directly to Pillar 3: The centrality of the artist.**

ACCESS: Megalo believes it has an obligation to support engagement with the whole experience of print practice, and that art should be accessible to all, regardless of background, ability, or experience. Removing barriers to participation is a priority that is activated by ensuring that our spaces, programs, and resources are inclusive, affordable and welcoming. These values guide every aspect of our work, from how we welcome artists and engage audiences, right through to how we create, collaborate, and curate our public and school programs and our exhibitions. **This work relates directly to Pillar 3: The centrality of the artist, Pillar 1: First Nations First, Pillar 2: A place for every story, and Pillar 5: Reaching the audience.**

SOCIAL COHESION: Megalo has, for nearly 50 years, achieved a reputation for supporting the production and exhibition of excellence in creative practice as well as community development. It contributes to social cohesion by providing shared creative

experiences and enabling artists and members of the community to tell their stories. Megalo's own archive, as well as its reputation in the community, evidences its expertise in collaboration and in building understanding across cultures, identities, and generations. Megalo is an asset to the nation. **This work relates to Pillar 1: First Nations First, Pillar 2: A place for every story, & Pillar 5: Reaching the audience.**

RISKS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Despite the contributions that Megalo makes to the core priorities of the Consultation Paper (notably **Pillar 3: The centrality of the artist and Pillar 2: A place for every story**), ensuring the sustainability of operations in today's changing – and challenging – environment is an escalating problem. Our three recommendations are closely aligned.

Recommendation 1. STRONG INSTITUTIONS: Greater investment in community-based art-making infrastructure has never been more critical

The erosion of funding for tertiary arts education globally is creating a deficit of access to knowledge and training, including in printmaking. As institutional funding declines, artists and cultural practitioners are faced with increasingly insecure employment and funding arrangements that impact their living conditions. Megalo is essential for the preservation, teaching, and innovation of print practices, and for supporting artists to develop their careers through access to specialist facilities, mentoring and residencies.

Recommendation 2. CENTRALITY OF THE ARTIST: Greater investment in art-making infrastructure is necessary to sustain a healthy arts ecology and the future development of artists

Creative Australia's funding for the production and presentation of new work is important. However, the infrastructure which supports artist development has been underfunded and is ever-more precarious. This is particularly the case outside major cities, which increases the remit for metropolitan studios like Megalo to extend their resources to ensure the sustainability of the knowledge and expertise required to keep printmaking alive. Without stronger and more consistently reliable funding for core infrastructure, including operations, administration and capacity development as well as programs, *Revive's* aspirations cannot be met.

Recommendation 3. FIRST NATIONS FIRST: Greater investment in art-making infrastructure is essential to build and sustain the careers of First Nation Artists

As a space dedicated to shared knowledge, Megalo is committed to First Nations leadership and collaboration. We have a long history of working with First Nations artists both through studio residencies and on-country. Megalo provides access to specialist skills and knowledge and the technical facilities that allows artists to explore new media, develop diversity of artistic practice and sustain careers.