

National Cultural Policy Submission

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Public

Individual

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Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

I would like to see stronger art education in primary school. At the moment primary school art teacher do not need any formal training or experience to be an art teacher. Pre-service primary teachers have little or no training in art education. The standard of art education in primary school is inconsistent and in many cases poor. Arts teachers should be specialists, effective arts pedagogy is well research and has a specific approach. There need to be solid infrastructure around pre-service teacher training and qualifications. Teachers should have a minimum level of training and qualification to teach primary art (Pillar 4).

Young people today will become tomorrow's artists, audience and participants in the arts industry. We need better higher quality art teachers to ensure our future arts and culture is strong.

We need to provide quality opportunities for children between ages of 4 and 12 years so they can tell their stories and express their ideas, especially First Nations children (Pillar 1 and 2).

There needs to be equality and access to arts education for all primary age students, the minimum amount of hours needs to be increased and mandated. Currently some students only receive 10 hours a year. Current policy has funded artist in-schools programs but access is extremely limited proportionally to the number of school and students nation wide. Artists have a lot to offer but in many cases they are not teacher trained and lack pedagogical knowledge and skill in art education. There needs to be sequential, ongoing primary arts education for students where skills, knowledge and dispositions are developed over time. Space needs to be mandated in schools so arts education can take place effectively. Currently Victorian schools are not required to provide a room or space for music and/or drama education. (Pillar 4).

How young people engage in the arts as audience and art makers is evolving. Arts education in primary schools need to be better supported to ensure future engagement, participation and production is accessible and sustainable. Investing in children's arts education will encourage early engage and value for the arts (pillar 5).

Education should be included in the Cultural Policy with a pillar dedicated to all arts education sectors. I would like to see this policy influence education policies at state level.