



DRAMA TASMANIA

E: [REDACTED]

Response to Consultation on a New National Cultural Policy Submitted on behalf of Drama Tasmania

Drama Tasmania welcomes the Australian Government's commitment to developing a new National Cultural Policy that builds on the important foundations established through *Revive*. We strongly support the creation of a stable, ambitious and future-focused framework that recognises arts and culture as essential to Australia's social, educational and economic wellbeing.

As the peak body representing drama educators and practitioners across Tasmania, we affirm that drama education is a foundational cultural infrastructure. It is through high-quality drama learning in schools that young Australians first encounter the power of storytelling, creative collaboration, performance and critical reflection. Drama cultivates not only artistic capability but also the broader capacities needed for engaged citizenship and future workforces; communication, empathy, confidence, problem solving, innovation and adaptability. These capabilities are central to Australia's cultural future and must be recognised as such in national policy.

Drama also plays a vital role in fostering cultural literacy and intercultural understanding. It connects young people with the diverse stories that shape Australia, including First Nations perspectives and experiences. Through participation in drama, students develop the creative confidence to contribute meaningfully to Australia's cultural life as artists, audiences, educators and advocates.

However, this potential is increasingly under pressure. Participation in arts education has declined across Australia, with enrolments in senior secondary arts subjects, including drama, falling in many areas over the past decade. This trend reflects broader systemic challenges: curriculum overcrowding, inequitable access to specialist arts teachers, reduced resourcing for arts programs, and the persistent marginalisation of arts learning in school improvement agendas. The lingering impacts of the pandemic have further intensified these pressures, with many schools still rebuilding performance programs, audience engagement and community confidence in live arts participation. At the same time, rapid technological change is reshaping creative practice and demanding new forms of artistic and digital literacy.

Without strong policy intervention, Australia risks weakening the pipeline of future artists, arts workers, creative leaders and culturally engaged citizens.

A new National Cultural Policy must explicitly recognise arts education, including drama, as a core national investment in creativity, resilience and cultural participation. To ensure a thriving cultural ecosystem, Drama Tasmania urges the Australian Government to prioritise:

- **Equitable access** to quality drama and arts education for all students
- **Investment in specialist teacher training** to address workforce shortages and strengthen teaching quality
- **Partnerships between schools and the professional arts sector** to connect young people with contemporary creative practice
- **Recognition of drama education as critical to audience development**
- **Support for innovation in digital and hybrid creative practice**
- **Long-term alignment between cultural and education portfolios** to ensure sustainable sector growth

Australia's cultural future depends on the creative experiences we provide young people today. If we are to remain resilient, innovative and inclusive as a nation, we must invest in drama education as a cornerstone of cultural life.

Drama Tasmania welcomes the opportunity to contribute to this important national conversation and looks forward to ongoing consultation to ensure the voices of educators, young people and creative communities remain central to shaping Australia's next cultural chapter.

Sincerely,



Mrs Mikaela Dunn

President

Drama Tasmania

