

National Cultural Policy Submission

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Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

There is a great deal of emphasis on content and stories in the draft policy . Our state libraries, museums, galleries and multimedia archives are content keepers. Pictorial, literary, archival, published and digital media storehouses whose content could be surfaced and used to permeate new cultural sharing. This content is as diverse as it is culturally rich and spanning past to present. We see little reference to this. The GLAM sector deserves greater prominence in this policy paper, especially given the story focus . States are not evenly maintaining these institutions and they often struggle to gain public profile. They need marketing power and sufficient curatorial and collection management support to do their specialist work, support equitable access, feed into school curricula and public library programs, and to achieve effective outreach including public and digital exhibitions. There is a rich seam of Australian content opportunity and creative potential here to underpin all creative art forms, including performing arts, and also to support school education. It is time Canberra provided targeted programs to power up and realise the greater potential that the distributed national collection, its curation and outreach can offer. This would be an equitable national investment. Our community needs the cultural benefits and the story immersion opportunities that are currently limited or denied. Alongside this, we need curatorial education to be more valued and supported across the tertiary sector with Australian history, literature and art returned to a status that has been lost. Curatorial scholarships and fellowships should be offered. Trove which attracts so many content searchers should be better supported with more timely digital conversion back up, especially newspapers, creating a higher level of access to a vast and diverse canvas of multicultural Australiana that is currently very hard to see. The stories are there - they need liberating and promoting in new and creative ways through a targeted funded Federal stimulus approach and with attention to arts sector / GLAM creative content partnerships.