

National Cultural Policy Submission

1472097

Public and anonymous

[REDACTED]

Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

There is a vital need for recognition of the critical role that arts and culture play in sustaining identity, language, community wellbeing, and economic participation across Australia's First Nations communities. From the perspective of [REDACTED], the acknowledgement of the importance of First Nations cultural authority, cultural preservation, transmission, and innovation needs a long-term investment in community-led cultural infrastructure.

For remote Aboriginal art centres such as [REDACTED], art and culture are inseparable from community and individual wellbeing, language continuity, and economic sustainability. The art centre functions not only as a place of artistic production, but also as one of the few stable community-led institutions supporting intergenerational wisdom and knowledge transmission, language maintenance, employment, and economic self-determination within the Pirlangimpi community. Placing First Nations voices and cultural leadership at the centre of Australia's cultural future is therefore strongly welcomed. To intact such a commitment, meaningful financial contributions to under resourced remote community art centres for developing infrastructure, such as Munupi Arts is a practical and much needed step towards making First Nations voices and cultural leadership in Australia a contemporary reality.

Currently, there remains a significant gap between policy ambition and the realities faced by remote Aboriginal arts organisations. In communities such as Pirlangimpi, the long-term sustainability of artistic and cultural practice is increasingly threatened by inadequate infrastructure, limited housing, staff shortages, and the absence of secure facilities to preserve cultural materials and support workers living onsite.

[REDACTED] believes cultural preservation cannot occur without practical investment in the infrastructure required to sustain it. This includes secure museum and keeping-place facilities for culturally significant artworks, artefacts, archival materials, and language resources, alongside safe accommodation for arts workers and staff who are essential to maintaining operations in remote communities.

Importantly, the success of remote art centres depends not only on artists, but also on the wellbeing, safety, and retention of management and arts workers. These staff play a critical role in supporting artistic production, facilitating cultural transmission, developing markets, managing complex business operations, and creating pathways for economic participation. When staff are adequately supported through safe housing, appropriate infrastructure, and sustainable working conditions, art centres are better positioned to strengthen both artistic and cultural outcomes and financial autonomy for their communities.

The recognition of creative employment pathways and economic opportunities for First Nations people is therefore highly important. Remote art centres often represent one of the only accessible and community-controlled economic enterprises available locally. Investment in these organisations delivers artistic, cultural, linguistic, social, and economic benefits that extend far beyond the arts sector.

