

Submission: the Next Iteration of **Revive**

Regional Arts Victoria

24 May 2026

Background

[RAV](#) is Victoria's peak body for regional arts. Founded in 1969, we are a not-for-profit, member-based organisation.

Revive set the right policy foundations but we propose that the next iteration engages purposefully with regionally based artists and audiences for equitable cultural, social and economic participation.

PILLAR ONE: FIRST NATIONS FIRST

National investment frameworks should provide stable funding for First Nations artists beyond the arts centre or company model. A significant cohort of Victorian independent and contemporary First Nations practitioners would benefit from multi-year resourcing to practice Culture on Country. This will also benefit the regional communities in which they live.

Recommendation: Expand multi-year investment to key independents and community led organisations

- independent First Nations artists, small groups and emerging organisations fostering regionally based practitioners working at the intersection of community and creative practice

PILLAR TWO: A PLACE FOR EVERY STORY

A particularly forceful pillar in regional communities disadvantaged and/or destabilised by inconsistent classifications of "regional", distance, metro-centric funding systems, and metropolitan-to-regional touring flows.

Recommendation: Foster regional stories through residencies, exchanges & locally generated content

- Dedicated funding streams resource regional artists to create without metropolitan intermediaries or centrally developed priorities

PILLAR THREE: CENTRALITY OF THE ARTIST

Address the structural realities of compound disadvantages: isolation from networks, limited training access, and workforce structures that rely heavily on volunteers.

Recommendation: Capability development and paid traineeships

- Establish a national framework that minimises relocation via programs for/by regional organisations, covering the operational competencies that determine regional quality of life, art and social cohesion

Recommendation: Support and incentivise volunteers

- Develop national frameworks eg targeted support for volunteer training and inter-generational succession planning in regional organisations; resources for shared backend support across multiple volunteer organisations.

PILLAR FOUR: STRONG INFRASTRUCTURE

Cultural infrastructure is not only buildings. It is also the people who make the art, music, books, theatre, dance and other stories that make buildings relevant. The dominance of project funding is a damaging structural feature of Australian arts funding systems that is especially pernicious in regional settings.

Recommendation: Multi-year funding for regional creative organisations

- Foster strategic planning, drive staff retention & expertise, facilitate long term partnerships including with external volunteer-based groups, and maintain institutional knowledge and organisational effectiveness.

PILLAR FIVE: REACHING (AND ENGAGING) THE AUDIENCE

Market development structures leverage metropolitan access and presence – evidencing market failure as much as a cultural policy gap.

Recommendation: Expand market development access for regional artists and organisations

- Programs that expand professional horizons and distribution of stories via national and international platforms, including subsidised participation and targeted brokerage support.

Recommendation: Incentivise inclusion in networks, partnerships and platforms

Geographic distance compounds other structural exclusions to limit the visibility and viability of regional creative practice.

- Mandate and resource regional representation in national advisory bodies, peer assessment panels, and sector forums

Conclusion

RAV submits that the next iteration of Revive has an opportunity to move beyond aspiration and into structural change for inclusion of regional Australians. We welcome further engagement on any of the recommendations in this submission.

Jo Porter, CEO

████████████████████
████████████████████

www.rav.net.au