

National Cultural Policy Submission

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Public

Organisation

Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts (PICA)

Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

Established in 1989, PICA is WA's longest running S2M multi-arts organisation. Working with over 300 artists pa, we commission, present and support the development of artistic practice at all career stages, and run WA's largest studio program. PICA is part of two vital national networks: CAO (Contemporary Art Organisations Australia) and ECC (Experimental Commissioning Consortium) and support their NCP review recommendations as detailed below.

How do the five Revive pillars impact our work?

Pillar 1: S2M organisations have long delivered strong outcomes in supporting First Nations practice and leadership. Policy should prioritise additional targeted support of this work, embedding First Nations leadership, governance, ICIP protocols, remuneration, career pathways and programming as core operational activity, not short-term project work.

Pillar 2: S2M organisations already deliver strong outcomes in access, inclusion, well-being and representation. Policy should prioritise continuity and expansion of existing organisational capacity over short-term initiatives.

Pillar 3: Artists remain underpaid, with policy settings failing to recognise them as workers requiring fair, legislated remuneration and appropriate conditions.

Pillar 4: Strong organisations positively impact the creative workforce, audience growth, social cohesion, education delivery and community engagement. A decade of static/declining investment has weakened S2M organisational capacity, impacting workforce retention and remuneration; compliance with fair pay standards set by NAVA, increased governance and HR compliance, and workplace safety.

Pillars 5: Sustainable careers for independent artists depend on S2M organisations being resourced to support national and international mobility, including touring, market development and cultural exchange.

What would we like to see in the National Cultural Policy?

The visual arts, and specifically its S2M organisations, remain largely absent from Revive's framework, investment mechanisms and program delivery. We advocate for a National Cultural Policy that explicitly recognises Australia's S2M contemporary visual arts organisations as vital national infrastructure delivering on the country's key cultural objectives.

To enable the S2M arts sector to effectively service artists, artworkers and audiences, we require mechanisms that provide sustained advocacy, funding and tax incentives for the organisations that underpin its creative workforce, including:

- Establishment of a Visual Arts Council to provide legislated strategic leadership, advocacy and growing investment pathways for the S2M visual arts sector.
- Renewal and expansion of multiyear operational investment, including VACS and VACDF, to secure strong S2M cultural infrastructure, fair remuneration and sustained public impact across audiences, access, education and community wellbeing.
- Investment in national and international mobility initiatives delivered through S2M organisations to build markets, support touring and strengthen philanthropy, enterprise and audience connection.
- Incentives for organisations programming newly commissioned Australian work to encourage creative risk and ensure new voices reach our stages.
- Acknowledgement of experimental practice as a critical breeding ground for culture, and a unique form with its own art historical lineage, distinct from emerging practices, digital or immersive art, and dedicated support that reflects this.