

National Cultural Policy Submission

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Public

Individual

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Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

My name is Nikki Brooke, and I am a self-published author from Melbourne, writing young adult science fiction and fantasy. As an independent creative, I have experienced firsthand both the opportunities and growing challenges facing Australia's cultural sector.

One of the biggest issues facing authors and artists today is the increasing impact of generative AI. AI systems are being trained on copyrighted books, artwork, and other creative works without the consent or compensation of the people who created them. I have personally had my work used without permission to train AI systems. This has left many creatives feeling exploited and unprotected. And frankly, it's disgusting!

At the same time, AI-generated content is flooding the market. While technology can be useful as a tool, there is a growing risk that human creativity, originality, and emotional connection are being devalued. Stories, art, and music are not products to be replicated by algorithms. They reflect lived experience, culture, identity, and human emotion. Without stronger protections, we risk losing the authenticity that makes Australian art meaningful.

I would like to see the new National Cultural Policy include stronger protections for artists against unauthorised AI use. AI companies should not be allowed to train models on creative work without clear consent and fair compensation. There should also be restrictions preventing AI from imitating or replicating an artist's unique style, voice, likeness, or writing patterns without permission. Additionally, stronger safeguards are needed around the visual, audio, and written depiction of real people through AI-generated content.

Beyond regulation, there also needs to be greater investment in Australian arts, literature, and creative industries. Independent authors and artists often struggle with limited funding opportunities, despite contributing significantly to Australian culture and storytelling. Supporting human creatives through grants, programs, and industry development is essential to preserving authentic Australian voices and experiences for future generations.

Australia has an opportunity to lead by protecting creativity, valuing artists fairly, and ensuring technology supports culture. We shouldn't allow it to replace us. I hope this policy recognises the importance of safeguarding the human experience at the heart of the arts.