

National Cultural Policy Submission

1472238

Public and anonymous

Individual



Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

I am based in Adelaide, and I work as a contemporary jeweller and educator having taught jewellery making and book binding at JamFactory and the WEA.

Craft and design and creativity are life. They are aspects of being human that should not be diminished or seen only in economic terms. They offer so much more to society than money generation. Artists need to be paid fairly and well for the unique contributions that they offer society.

I take tours at [REDACTED] I regularly ask school groups who wants to pursue a career in the arts and design sector. I've watched as less students put their hands up over the seven years that I have done these. Students do not see pathways forward for sustainable careers, and they see that artists are barely scraping by. They feel that they can't afford this type of career when it is getting harder and harder just to survive with the cost-of-living crisis.

Artists hear all the time that they “do it because they love it”. This rhetoric is often used as a way of justifying not paying them fairly or at all. We can't eat exposure. Exposure doesn't pay our now exorbitant rents. Doctors do what they do because they love it. Engineers do what they do because they love it. People try to get into jobs that they love. But only artists are expected to work for nothing or for exposure. This is not fair and it diminishes Australia culturally and socially.

I support the three asks made by the Australian Craft and Design Centres (ACDC) network in their submission to this consultation: a 10-year workforce development plan that addresses skills and training shortages for craftspeople and designers; the establishment of a dedicated craft and design structure within Creative Australia, with its own mandate to advocate for the sector, develop funding pathways, and coordinate across government; and an export and tourism development strategy that positions Australian makers in international markets, including at showcase events like Milan Design Week.

Please protect the arts in this country.