

National Cultural Policy Submission

1472257

Public

Individual

Grace Macpherson



Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

I am a researcher, writer, and arts manager living on unceded Dharawal country. Driven to make systemic changes to the lives of people working in the arts and cultural sector, I submit the following five recommendations. In making these points, I also wish to explicitly align my perspectives with and highlight the comprehensive submissions made by A New Approach and Kate Larsen.

\,Pillar 4: Strong Cultural Infrastructure\,

1. Intergovernmental Alignment: Establish a ministerial council focused on the arts and cultural sector, with representation across local, state, and federal governments.
2. Cross-Portfolio Collaboration: Implement new mechanisms for genuine cross-government collaboration. This can be modeled on the Australian Government's comparable 2030 strategic plans for agriculture, sport, innovation, and tourism to actively embed \,arts and cultural activities in existing and new initiatives across all relevant portfolios.\,
3. Policy Longevity: Extend the timeline of this cultural policy to run for 10 years instead of five, ensuring it outlives individual electoral cycles across all levels of government and remains insulated from partisan changes.

\,Pillar 3: Centrality of the Artist\,

4. Welfare & Professional Recognition: Secure the formal recognition of art as a profession by Centrelink, including the removal of mutual obligation requirements for unemployed artists and cultural workers.
5. Industrial Rights & Security: Establish specific policy settings that guarantee artists and cultural workers enjoy the same industrial rights as those in other sectors—ideally achieved through robust wage standards and job guarantees.

Arts and culture is not merely an industry; it is central to a flourishing democratic nation, just like health and education. Policy settings must be intentionally designed to treat it as such.

Thank you.