

National Cultural Policy Submission

1472266

Public and anonymous

Individual



Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

My name is [REDACTED], and I am an artist whose practice engages with themes of identity, migration, cultural memory, justice and collective care. Through my work, I explore how art can create space for critical dialogue, challenge dominant narratives and strengthen community connection. I believe the forthcoming National Cultural Plan must reflect the urgent realities facing artists, arts workers and the broader sector, including censorship, political interference, racism and chronic underfunding.

This submission is grounded in commitments to decolonisation, anti-racism, anti-discrimination, artistic freedom and independence from political influence. The Policy should adopt a decolonial and anti-racist framework, while supporting leadership from practitioners already advancing this work. The IHRA definition of antisemitism should be removed from arts, cultural and educational institutions and replaced with the UN Core Stance of Values, affirming equality, dignity and freedom from discrimination for all people.

Artists must be recognised as ethical and values-driven leaders within the sector. They should be able to speak freely, sign petitions and participate in boycott actions without risking their livelihoods or reputations. Arts institutions must protect cultural diversity and support artists who face backlash for speaking against injustice or addressing politically sensitive issues in their work.

Strong cultural infrastructure depends on freedom of artistic expression and independence from political interference. The National Cultural Plan must uphold arms-length funding processes and prevent political figures, lobbyists and donors from influencing artistic programming or funding decisions. An inquiry into political interference, lobbying and board influence within the arts sector should be established.

The Plan must also commit to significantly increased and sustained public investment in the arts to ensure the sector remains strong, accessible and able to develop long-term in Australia. Artists and small-to-medium organisations are essential to Australia's cultural life, yet many face increasing financial precarity. Adequate funding is necessary not only for artistic production, but for preserving cultural diversity, supporting emerging voices and maintaining a healthy democratic society.