

National Cultural Policy Submission

1472282

Public and anonymous

Individual

Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

My name is [REDACTED] (GAICD) and I am an independent artist, Arts Practitioner and Strategist. [REDACTED] and working to build capacity of professional writers who have experiences of marginalisation and criminalisation. [REDACTED]

Almost all of my work centres predominantly around creative and community practice with and for marginalised communities, with a focus on CaRM and CALD community practices.

Naturally I support the submission from the national alliance of Community Arts and Cultural Development (CACD) organisations and individuals. Australia's next National Cultural Policy must recognise and invest in CACD as essential cultural infrastructure. As outlined in the full submission, CACD operates at the intersection of creativity and community, delivering resilience, recognition and meaningful cultural participation across the continent.

Despite its national reach and impact, CACD is not explicitly recognised within the current REVIVE framework. This omission creates a critical policy gap. It limits visibility of a cross-sector practice that delivers on national priorities of equity, access and participation, and constrains the capacity of government to mobilise creative practice in response to compounding challenges including climate impacts, disasters, inequality and social fragmentation. Without CACD, REVIVE risks overlooking the primary mechanism through which many Australians engage meaningfully with arts and culture.

CACD is not a niche artform. It is a methodology embedded across disciplines and sectors including health, education, justice, disaster management and climate adaptation. Only 5–6% of national arts investment is explicitly attributed to CACD, this significantly underrepresents CACD's reach, as it is dispersed across multiple funding streams and not consistently measured. This systemic undercounting leads to undervaluation and misalignment with policy commitments to inclusion and cultural democracy.

I recognise that advocacy and policy success is also crucially dependent on the needs of First Nations artists and arts organisations being met, and support the submissions made by First Nations artists, creative workers and organisations. All cultural practice must be grounded in anti-racism, diversity and inclusion work led by First Nations communities and must not conflate First Nations and settler-migrant experiences of racism and exclusion.

CACD directly advances all five pillars of REVIVE. It supports First Nations self-determination, ensures diverse stories are visible, recognises community-based artists as essential workers, and shifts engagement from passive audiences to active participation. Its impact is particularly significant for priority communities, including First Nations peoples, young people, culturally diverse communities, disabled communities, and those in regional and disaster-impacted areas.

To address this gap, the submission proposes formal recognition of CACD within the policy; the establishment of a national CACD entity within Creative Australia; investment in workforce development; funding reforms toward long-term, place-based models; improved national data and evaluation