

I am a poet and a member of **Friendly Street Poets (FSP)**, an Adelaide collective which formed over 50 years ago.

I strongly endorse FSP's current **National Cultural Policy**

As a retired general practitioner and family therapist, I am aware of the power of the performance arts in establishing identity and supporting confidence.

This is an important resource in the rehabilitation of young offenders.

At **headspace**, a federally funded mental health initiative, young people seek confidential, youth-friendly support for mental health, relationships, bullying, gender identity, or substance use.

In engagement with clients, art practices, crafts, writing, and dance are used extensively

Currently, the business model of national universities financially penalises students who select liberal arts courses rather than obviously career oriented degrees

It is therefore all the more important that music, art, drama and literature syllabuses now be strengthened in primary and secondary schools and that community engagement in these areas be adequately funded

For fifty years the Australian English Teachers Association has held annual Spring Poetry Festivals in the states, where primary and secondary students perform their poems to a thrilled audience of parents and teachers.

Many well known writers and performers credit their English teacher with their initial inspiration. I am a poet and a member of **Friendly Street Poets (FSP)**, an Adelaide collective which formed over 50 years ago.

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Dr Susan O'Brien 24/05/26