

National Cultural Policy Submission

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Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

I am concerned about the lack of cultural activities celebrating that we are all Australian, I see Greek festivals, Indian festivals, First Nationals celebrations, St Patricks Day, but were do we get to see our lived history of the gold rush, the diggers, the explorers, the early settlers who have worked hard to contribute to the Australian way of life. Recently, my granddaughter had a school project - she needed some help - she asked me the questions - 1st - Where do you come from? - my response was \,where would they deport you to?\, - you are 6th generation Australian - why aren't we encouraging our young people to understand and be proud of their heritage. Then her next question was \,what's special about your community?\, - I find this a particularly hard question to answer - because unless you belong to a strong ethnic community - you just blend in, not realising how special it is to be an Australian - her response was \,We flood\, - which wasn't a bad answer for a 10 year old. However, what's important about this. As Australians, we seem to know more about other cultures, traditions and community and have very little understanding of what it is to be Australian. I think art and cultural events celebrating the Australia of today can help with this. Otherwise the most marginalised groups of the future will become the 5th and 6th generation Australians who don't talk about where they have come from for political correctness. Let's really promote True Blue attitudes and pride.