

National Cultural Policy Submission

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Public

Individual

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Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

I'm an established freelance theatre actor, director, writer and teacher based in Boorloo/Perth. To support Pillars 2, 3, 4 and 5 of the National Cultural Policy, I urge federal arts policy and funding to focus on locally-based artists. 'A place for every story' means that the diverse stories, identities, character and needs of each State, city, region and community need to be recognised, e.g. by decentralising and devolving all federal funding and advisory panels on a State, city and regional basis. 'Centrality of the artist' similarly means that locally-based artists need to be at the centre of this in terms of all strategic and funding decision-making by having a quota of local artists on each locally-based funding and advisory panel. It also means that locally-based artists need to be central to the mission and purpose of all State, city and regional-based companies and organisations, e.g. by making MPAP funding contingent on a fixed quota of work by the company being written, created and performed by locally-based artists, and a fixed quota of resident artists – including performers – being employed on 1-year or 2-year contracts and not just as gig-workers. 'Strong cultural infrastructure' means cultural infrastructure that supports a sustainable career for local artists. Finally, 'engaging the audience' means engaging a local audience, which can only be done in a deep and lasting way by locally-based artists who are part of the same community as that audience.