

National Cultural Policy Submission

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Public

Individual

Spike Deane



Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

My name is Spike. I am based in Canberra, on Ngambri and Ngunnawal country, and I work as a glass artist and cast glass fabricator.

My first experiences at Canberra Glassworks were short courses and a graduate residency. Gradually joining in with the generous community that flows through Canberra Glassworks, simply showing up allowed me to develop as a maker and acquire new skills. That support was given in conversation by established artists who shared knowledge and expertise, and by taking on volunteer and paid opportunities within Canberra Glassworks programs.

Now, as an established artist, I am a full-time maker. I continue to learn through professional workshops and sharing knowledge with my peers. As I gain experience, I return that knowledge and support back to my community through organised mentoring and casual sharing of knowledge by working in the same space.

Craft skills require people, practice and place to survive. A place to make and develop technique, a place for community to gather, share, teach and learn, face to face, hand to hand. Technical nuance can be lost without the connection among individuals. Without pathways to learn, skills will be lost. Without structured opportunities, a basic wage and support for fair pay craft will be lost as too many makers have to choose financial stability over a craft or arts practice.

I support the three asks made by the Australian Craft and Design Centres (ACDC) network in their submission to this consultation: a 10-year workforce development plan that addresses skills and training shortages for craftspeople and designers; the establishment of a dedicated craft and design structure within Creative Australia, with its own mandate to advocate for the sector, develop funding pathways, and coordinate across government; and an export and tourism development strategy that positions Australian makers in international markets, including at showcase events like Milan Design Week.