

National Cultural Policy Submission

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Public and anonymous

Individual

Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

I support the submission from the national alliance of Community Arts and Cultural Development (CACD) organisations and individuals. We argue that 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 social cohesion, resilience and meaningful cultural participation across the continent.

From my perspective, as a co-founder of [REDACTED] and parent to two young men who identify as disabled artists, CACD has provided many artists with a disability an opportunity to develop skills, new works, networks and to experience access and equity in communities of choice.

Today, in the face of shifting funding paradigms and forecasts of cuts to individual social and community participation funding, REVIVE'S attention to CACD practice becomes more urgent to individual artists with a disability, many who utilise this funding to access the arts.

So does the capacity building of the arts sector to really include artists with a disability and I encourage the REVIVE Expert Panels to consider disabled artists across the five pillars, not only in A PLACE FOR EVERY STORY.

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 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, disabled communities, young people, culturally diverse communities and those in regional and disaster-impacted areas.

To address gaps, I propose 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 systems; and embedding CACD across government portfolios including health, climate, disaster management and regional development.

I also propose recognition of the impact on Australians with a disability of reduced social and community participation and inclusion as a direct outcome of the recent proposed changes to NDIS funded supports.

At a time of increasing climate instability, social fragmentation and compounding disasters, Australia requires approaches that build trust, connection and collective capacity. These are not outcomes policy alone can deliver. CACD provides the creative and relational mechanisms to achieve them.

To realise the vision of REVIVE—“a place for every story”—CACD must be recognised, properly measured, and resourced as a cornerstone of Australia's cultural future.