

National Cultural Policy Submission

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Public and anonymous

Individual

Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

I am a cultural organisation operating across [REDACTED] committed to strengthening creative practice, community participation, inclusive arts education and cultural equity. We support a policy framework that recognises the diversity of Australia's cultural ecology and invests in sustainable, place-based creative futures.

A strong national cultural policy must demonstrate a commitment to First Nations leadership through investment in self-determined, place-based practice across all artforms. Embedding cultural safety across programs, partnerships and policy is essential to meaningful participation and long-term sustainability. Investment should prioritise pathways for First Nations artists, producers and organisations to lead cultural activity on their own terms and within their own communities.

Australia's National Cultural Policy must recognise and invest in CACD as essential cultural infrastructure. CACD operates at the intersection of creativity and community, delivering social cohesion, resilience and meaningful cultural participation across the continent.

Equitable access to arts and culture across the Nation cannot rely solely on traditional touring models. While touring remains important, policy must recognise the value of locally generated work and participatory arts practice. Communities have the right to actively experience the creating of art. Flexible investment models that support community-led programming, collaborative creation and locally responsive approaches will strengthen cultural identity, participation and resilience across regional Australia.

Artists and artsworkers must remain central to national cultural policy. Workforce development across the arts sector requires long-term investment. Paid traineeships, career pathways and practice-based learning opportunities allow skills to be developed and retained locally. Regionally based organisations play a critical role as training hubs, employers and incubators of creative talent, yet they are often under-resourced despite delivering significant cultural and social outcomes. Policy should also acknowledge the essential contribution of volunteers and volunteer boards whose leadership and labour sustain many regional cultural organisations.

Strong cultural infrastructure is an interconnected system of people, organisations, partnerships and networks that enable cultural life to thrive. Investment should support flexible, multi-use community spaces that can adapt to diverse forms of creative practice and community need. Sustainable funding for regional cultural facilities is essential and community-led. Strong partnerships with local government are critical to ensuring cultural infrastructure responds to local priorities and delivers long-term public value.

The policy should also recognise the growing importance of creative arts in health and wellbeing. Participation in arts and cultural activity plays a vital role in supporting social connection, mental health and community resilience, particularly in regional and remote communities where access is limited. Arts and health initiatives deliver significant benefits across wellbeing, inclusion and preventative health outcomes.

Cultural policy must reflect the importance of audience engagement and active participation as central to a healthy creative ecosystem. Policies that foster inclusion, accessibility and community ownership will strengthen both artistic outcomes and social cohesion.