

National Cultural Policy Submission

1472607

Public

Individual

Scott van Tuil



Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

My name is Scott van Tuil. I am based in Hobart, and I work as a Furniture designer/maker.

Craft and design is what I do, how I define myself, and how I make a living. Having begun my career and practise as a mature age student (at the UTAS school of architecture and design -Furniture), the importance of design and craft education should not be underestimated. The same is true for institutions that advocate for craft and design such as Design Tasmania, the ADC, Jam Factory and others. In a world awash with globalised low-cost manufacture of largely disposable 'stuff', craft and design stands as a bastion to core human values of cultural identification, local materials and skill, and the importance and relevance of objects that tell stories and carry meaning. If we neglect to support these things we fail our heritage and diminish our future.

Without proper investment in training pathways, institutions, and market development, the depth and diversity of Australian craft and design is at risk, and with it the communities that form around making.

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.