

National Cultural Policy Submission

1472635

Public

Organisation

Migration Heritage Project Inc

Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

We feel uplifted by the intent and purpose of the National Cultural Policy. It is particularly important at this time in our history as a country and as global citizens for us to be able to connect with real people, to share our experiences and our stories in many diverse formats with other people, and to be physically present with others to counter balance the artificiality and the purposeful distractions that come with our digital age.

We have used the Cultural Policy to underscore the value of our work and demonstrate that our work is aligned to National policy especially when we apply for grant funding. However, today's cost of living pressures are creating huge demands on both public funding streams as well as philanthropic arms. Funding bodies choose to support a food kitchen over a creative project exploring the story telling with historical context.

We support the 5 pillars but feel pillar 2 could more emphatically express the importance of everyone's history especially the cultural diversity in our community as well as the critical part that museums play in providing objective and well researched information to provide the framework and context for many creative pieces. We feel the document would benefit greatly from these specific references in order to facilitate greater collaboration across the creative and heritage sector. Our experience in the Illawarra is that audiences love hearing and learning about the (actual) past if it is presented in a creative and engaging way. We have worked with many creative practitioners to deliver history in innovative ways from festival performances to art exhibitions on a heritage theme. If the policy provided more specific references to heritage it would foster greater interest and exploration throughout the wider cultural sector. Pillar 4 is also central to our advocacy as competing interests vie for attention and funds at a local level. Unfortunately very few local councils are brave enough to fund an art gallery or museum upgrade over maintenance to surf clubs and public toilet blocks. The need for incentives and new funding models to bring the private sector into discussions around the need for more social infrastructure is critical. Including the importance of investigating core funding (as opposed to project funds) to sustain the cultural sector.

There is a desperate imperative to ensure the new cultural policy is framed so that it fosters a frisson of activities and creative processes that bring us together as one people. As people who are proud of our unique and enduring First Nations history, as people who know their own history and that of their neighbours, as people who can celebrate the best of their culturally diverse backgrounds and innovate to make the country as a whole a better place to live.