

# SUPPORTACT

## First Nations Team Submission National Cultural Policy Review, May 2026

Support Act provides crisis relief and mental health support to artists, artist managers, crew and music workers across Australia. Our mental health programs and services are now also available to all creative industry workers.

Through our **dedicated First Nations Team**, we deliver culturally safe, community-led and culturally governed services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists and creative workers nationwide.

The current National Cultural Policy, *Revive: a Place For Every Story, A Story For Every Place*, has played an important role in recognising First Nations leadership and strengthening community-led creative practice through **Pillar 1: First Nations First**.

From our perspective, cultural participation and workforce sustainability cannot be separated from social and emotional wellbeing. Wellbeing is foundational to participation, sustained creative practice, and cultural continuity.

As participation and visibility increase across the sector, many First Nations music and creative industry workers continue to carry significant cultural, emotional and community responsibilities alongside professional demands. These pressures are compounded by financial insecurity, elevated psychosocial risk, racism, unsafe workplaces, and limited access to culturally safe support services — particularly across regional and remote communities.

While increased First Nations participation under *Revive* is a positive shift, it has also highlighted a **key structural gap: the absence of embedded, culturally safe wellbeing infrastructure to sustain the people behind the work**. Current policy settings support creative output, but do not yet adequately support the systems of care required for long-term workforce sustainability.

The findings of the 2022 [Raising Their Voices](#) report reinforce that increased participation alone will not create sustainable careers without culturally safe systems of accountability, support and care across the sector.

In response, Support Act has expanded its First Nations programs, including culturally informed crisis relief, counselling pathways, a dedicated wellbeing support line, accredited Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health First Aid training, Voices Amplified cultural competency training, and Yarning Strong forums that normalise conversations around social and emotional wellbeing.

These programs are strengthening trust in culturally safe systems, improving pathways into support, and helping First Nations artists and creative workers sustain long-term careers. This work also aligns with the intent of Pillar 3: Centrality of the Artist.

Support Act's First Nations Team is also leading the **First Nations Music Industry Review**, guided by a national First Nations-led Steering Committee with representation across each state and territory. The establishment of this Review is a key recommendation of the Raising Their Voices report, and it will provide an important evidence base to inform future policy settings and implementation pathways.

To support the next phase of *Revive*, we recommend that the National Cultural Policy:

- recognise Social and Emotional Wellbeing (SEWB) as essential cultural infrastructure
- embed cultural safety and accountability across funded programs and workplaces
- integrate social and emotional wellbeing into broader cultural policy and participation frameworks
- support the recommendations from the forthcoming First Nations Music Industry Review
- strengthen culturally safe support pathways for First Nations artists and creative workers across metropolitan, regional and remote communities
- increase support for the vital, ongoing work of Support Act's First Nations team.

A strong and sustainable cultural sector depends not only on creative output, but on the wellbeing of the people who carry culture, community and creative practice across generations.

Catherine Satour  
First Nations Program Manager  
Support Act

23 May 2026

## Supporting Information

### What the Research Says

- **First Nations music workers remain at significant risk:** The 2022 Raising Their Voices report exposed deep-seated cultural safety risks for First Nations creative workers. First Nations participants described systemic racism, discrimination, lack of cultural safety, fear of professional repercussions for reporting harm, and limited accountability mechanisms across the contemporary music industry. The report highlighted that many First Nations women felt unable to report sexual harassment or assault due to fears of backlash, career damage and a lack of trusted reporting pathways.

## **Case Study:**

### ***First Nations Wellbeing Infrastructure – Supporting Sustainable Careers in Music***

*Through Revive and the First Nations First framework, Support Act has significantly expanded culturally safe social and emotional wellbeing programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander music workers across Australia.*

*Led by a dedicated First Nations Team and guided by First Nations leadership, Support Act now delivers culturally governed crisis relief, counselling pathways, a dedicated wellbeing support line, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health First Aid, Voices Amplified cultural competency training, and Yarning Strong forums that normalise conversations around social and emotional wellbeing within the music industry.*

*These programs are helping address key barriers facing First Nations music workers, including financial insecurity, cultural load, geographic isolation and limited access to culturally safe support services. Increased engagement and uptake demonstrate growing trust in First Nations-led models of care and support.*

*Support Act is also leading the national First Nations Music Industry Review, guided by a First Nations-led steering committee representing every state and territory. The review will help inform future policy settings and strengthen long-term workforce sustainability across the sector.*

*This work demonstrates how Revive is supporting not only First Nations creative output, but the culturally safe systems needed to sustain participation, wellbeing and long-term careers in music.*

## **Sectoral Alignment**

- In addition to this submission, a complementary response has been prepared by Support Act CEO, Clive Miller, providing further organizational context.
- Support Act has also contributed to the “Next Generation Now” Contemporary Music Industry submission and endorses its collective recommendations.