

My name is Thom Browning & I'm an artist from Magandjin / Brisbane, the sovereign lands of the Yuggera & Turrbal nations. Firstly, it is my opinion that First Nations people should be leading any process defining & resourcing cultural policy in Australia.

Secondly, my disability (Myalgic Encephalomyelitis / ME) makes participation in this submission process difficult. I am not physically able to write a submission personalised with my own feedback, so instead I have read a range of submissions from peak bodies, advocacy groups, artist collectives & arts organisations. Given how deeply inaccessible this process is to me, the most effective thing I could do is (with assistance) endorse submissions which align with my own views.

Please accept this list of endorsements as my submission to the 2026 public consultation on the National Cultural Policy.

1. I endorse the submission **“SAY NO TO CENSORSHIP, POLITICAL INTERFERENCE & RACISM IN THE ARTS”**

“I am concerned by the prevalence of censorship, political interference & racism in the arts...The National Cultural Policy must take a decolonial, anti-racist & anti-discrimination approach. It should respect & take leadership from those in the sector who are already working from a strong decolonial, anti-racist & anti-discrimination framework.”

2. I endorse the submission from **“Creative Climate”**

“We call on the new National Cultural Policy to formally recognise that the arts & culture sector is essential climate infrastructure. This means: dedicated funding lines for culture-climate integration within Creative Australia’s remit; mandatory cross-portfolio coordination between the arts portfolio, OFTA, DCCEEW, & Treasury; & a clear accountability framework”

3. I endorse the submission from **“Arts & Disability Network Australia (ADNA)”**

“In the next National Cultural Policy, the government establish a dedicated sixth pillar. ‘Access for all Australians,’ to ensure that culture is fully accessible to as many people as possible.”

4. I endorse the submission from the **“National Advocates for Arts Education (NAAE)”**

“Arts education is the foundation upon which the ambitions of the National Cultural Policy are realised. Without it, there are no future artists, no engaged audiences, & no sustainable cultural infrastructure. Strengthening arts education is therefore not only an education priority, but a cultural policy imperative for Australia’s future.”

5. I endorse the submission titled **“QLD CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE ARTS SECTOR”**

“Queensland’s children & young people are being failed in their right to equal access & participation in arts & culture...Practitioners across the state can rebuild the sector, & the next National Cultural Policy can play a role in ensuring Queensland children, families, & artists benefit from sustained engagement with arts & culture.”

6. I endorse the submission by the **Children & Young People in the Arts Advisory Group via Theatre Network Australia**

"We urgently need dedicated multi-year organisational funding as a sector...Strong cultural infrastructure for children is not a smaller version of the infrastructure that serves adult audiences. It needs distinct funding architecture, distinct producing capacity, distinct touring infrastructure, & distinct policy recognition."

7. I endorse the submission by the **National Children's Theatre Alliance**

"Submissions from across the youth arts, arts education & broader cultural sectors have called for a dedicated sixth pillar for children, young people & the arts. The Alliance stands in solidarity with that call."