

## National Cultural Policy Submission

1472724

Public

Organisation

Polytoxic



Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

We write on behalf of Polytoxic - an independent Australian collective who create and tour internationally acclaimed genre-defying work with a fiercely feminist, cross-cultural, and collaborative ethos.

Co-Directed by Lisa Fa'alafi (Hot Brown Honey) & Leah Shelton (Batshit, On Heat), Polytoxic has a strong commitment to fostering local artists and supporting the buzzing independent arts scene in Magandgin (Brisbane). We invest an average of over \$100K annually in wages and reach broad audiences - last year we played to over 4,000 people within Australia and UK with our smash-hit show Dangerous Goods.

Through this submission, we seek to highlight key issues that are important to us:

> Freedom of expression is at risk

Pillar 2 (A Place for Every Story)

Freedom of expression and political independence is key to allowing the arts to flourish, fostering respect, communication and conversation.

We recommend:

- That artists are able to speak freely, sign letters and participate in boycott actions without harming their reputation and livelihoods.

- An end to the culture of intimidation that prevents artists from expressing and creating art freely, particularly in relation to nations that have been condemned by the UN for acts of apartheid, genocide and war crimes.

> Survival of independent arts & artists is at risk

Pillar 3 (Centrality of the Artist) + Pillar 4 (Strong Cultural Infrastructure)

A lack of pathways, reduced access to funding and reduced touring networks are having huge impacts on the survival of independent artists & companies. Many independents rely on second jobs and/or family support, thereby creating an imbalanced system whereby a certain level of privilege is required in order to become an artist.

We recommend:

- Piloting a scheme similar to Ireland's "Basic Income for the Arts (BIA) Scheme"

- Investing in support for independents to access space, mentorship, subsidised presentation opportunities, and venue-supported touring pathways

- Reforming funding, tax and regulatory systems to improve equity and access for independent & diverse creatives and organisations.

> Address state-by-state funding disparities

Pillar 2 (A Place for Every Story)

We recommend:

- Strengthening investment in relation to population across all states and territories

- Considering disparities in private cultural capital when designing national funding frameworks

> Decolonisation, anti-racism & anti-discrimination must underpin the Cultural Policy

All Pillars

We recommend:

- Embedding compulsory anti-racism, cultural safety and equity training across publicly funded organisations.

> Climate Justice must underpin the Cultural Policy

All Pillars

We call for:

- First Nations knowledge systems and leadership to be recognised as central to climate adaptation and land stewardship

- Investment into experimentation, cross-sector collaboration and creative research to develop new climate responses.

> AI and digital technologies in the Creative Sector must be regulated

Pillar 3 (Centrality of the Artist)

Pillar 4 (Strong Cultural Infrastructure)

We recommend:

- Regulating AI industries and developing AI guidelines specific to the creative sector

Recognition of the value of Community Arts & Cultural Development

We recommend:

- Explicitly recognising and supporting Community Arts and Cultural development within the new cultural policy as a distinct and essential field of practice.