

National Cultural Policy Submission

1472743

Public and anonymous

Individual



Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

"I welcome the opportunity to contribute to the redevelopment of the National Cultural Policy. It is key that Australia continues to have strategies that centre the importance of the arts to our national identity.

I am an independent [REDACTED] having worked both in house at State Theatre Companies and as a freelancer for over 25 years. The main bulk of my work is new Australian work. The work our sector produces is of world standard. However unless changes are made it will become unsustainable as a freelance director. Our fees have not increased in 25 years in fact I. Some instances they have gone down. With agents fees and tax we are some times paid \$18 an hour. As a senior artist you some times get offered work that should be offered to younger emerging directors for the opportunity to learn and gain experience. The tax system is very difficult to navigate with gst - it is very hard to estimate your income as it fluctuates from year to year. Some times you are paying BASS when you don't have the same income. The stories that form our national identity often need to be new - new perspectives - new voices about our common experiences . New stories involve artists and companies taking risks and need Government support to do so. The results are always worth it and we need to come together over stories more than ever right now.