

National Cultural Policy Submission

1472840

Public and anonymous

Individual

Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

The Arts are an essential part of the Australian way of life. The Arts sector plays a crucial role in how Australians view, critique and understand ourselves and our very diverse cultural tapestry as well as the way the rest of the world views us as a sophisticated and joyful culture.

The Arts, particularly the performing arts is a challenging but vibrant sector to work in, made more challenging by any personal load outside of the enormous focus required to deliver on time, every time as is required with live performing arts. The load carried by carers of children, people with disabilities and the elderly largely falls to women in Australian society, and a significant portion of arts practice also sits with women, namely: producing, stage management, teacher-artistry, works for by and with children and young people, community arts practice, work for/by/with d/Deaf and disabled people. The arts sector should not witness a mass exodus of skilled practitioners in their mid-careers due to the disparity between work hours, stress, pay and their caring responsibilities but it does.

Provision of a Basic Income for Artists (with superannuation payable) that is exempt from other caring and parenting payments would provide Australian women with the opportunity to maintain a creative practice and their livelihoods through flexible working conditions that are not dependent on a timesheet with an organisation. This support for working women will also maintain expertise and knowledge in the arts and leadership which we know is lacking post covid.