

National Cultural Policy Submission

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Public and anonymous

Individual



Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

I strongly support the new National Cultural Policy for a significant variety of reasons. Firstly I am incredibly shocked and surprised that Australia does not already have a National Cultural Policy. This is one of the clearest examples of how policies and regulations have not been effectively established to sustainably support the arts industry in Australia. It has contributed to the ongoing decline and struggle of artists and arts organisations which continue to financially struggle to provide creatives and employees with a living wage.

For the past five years I have only been able to make \$15000 from my creative work which I have had to supplement with casual and part time jobs. As a result I have often had to work more than 80 hours a week to continue pursuing my creative career with more than 60 percent of my time being unpaid. Additionally due to the significant decrease in arts funding and grants even major organisations such as Australian Theatre for Young People Sydney Theatre Company Opera Australia and The Australian Ballet struggle to provide livable wages and sustainable opportunities for employees and artists. Many organisations are being forced to cut early career programs developments and opportunities which demolishes the pipeline for future Australian artists.

Furthermore I have greatly struggled with the rising costs of rehearsal and venue hire. In Sydney it can cost between \$7000 and \$15000 to hire a performance venue for a season with additional rehearsal venue costs bringing the total to more than \$20000. In today's climate of rising renting costs where many artists can barely earn enough to support themselves we urgently need a policy that sustainably breaks down barriers and makes creative careers achievable. Hence I highly recommend making accommodation and touring and venue hire costs more accessible.

Moreover with the rising resentment toward First Nations people as seen through the mocking and disruption of Welcome to Country addresses over the past two years alongside the failure of the Voice to Parliament referendum and the slow progress being made to address climate change and hate speech, I strong recommend incorporating a commission for First Nations work as well as LGBTQ+ and CALD work to ensure we create a diversity of work to dispel ignorance in Australia and better engage our audiences in these issues.

In addition to the proposed pillars I highly recommend making young people another central pillar of this policy. We can only invest in the future by investing in the present. Today's young people will become the future leaders of the Australian arts industry and we should invest in their development now to ensure the continuation of great Australian works that place us on the international stage as seen through artists such as Kip Williams and Suzy Miller.