

National Cultural Policy Submission

1472876

Public and anonymous

Individual



Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

I am an actor, writer and theatre maker. I have worked consistently for many of Australia's major theatre companies for the past 15 years, telling stories of rich and vital cultural significance. My time is split between theatre work as an actor, screenwriting (for which I hold a Masters degree), playwriting, dramaturgy and teaching. I have committed my life to Australian storytelling and the theatre, and after graduating from drama school overseas, returned to Australia with great hope and ambition. Throughout my career I have seen funding lessen dramatically. I was lucky enough to benefit from many emerging artist initiatives while and after I was studying, but now as an established artist, these opportunities are far more scarce. We are under resourced and overworked. We work multiple jobs at the same time to make ends meet, as contracts are rarely longer than three months. Those of us lucky to have multiple creative projects have no work life balance and others are forced to work jobs outside the industry to survive. An award winning colleague of mine sleeps in his van in the carpark of the theatre after he performs so he can go to work at a delivery job in the early hours of the morning. Many other brilliant mid career colleagues are re training to enter other professions, because they want to start families and can no longer trust in the sustainability of their careers. We should not have to choose between our profession and having a family. If we continue to ignore the needs of the artists at the core of the art in this country we will no longer have any art. We are losing our centre. The buildings and companies have been prioritised over the artists. I support an artist centred policy. I support a living wage for artists. I support funding prioritised for independent artists and small-medium companies. I support a policy that protects our work from AI and prohibits AI from replacing any work of artists and arts workers.