

National Cultural Policy Submission

1472881

Public and anonymous

Individual



Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

Hi, my name is [REDACTED] and I am an actor, dramaturg, teacher, producer, arts consultant, and theatre maker, of 40 years in the industry, and although I support the current government policy, I do believe it can be improved. There is, I believe a lack of substantial and fundamental support for the arts, in the wider community, and I believe it needs to be implemented from kindergarten. NESA, which provide guidelines for drama and all the arts within schools, has curbed the scope of study, taken a narrower rather than expanding to a broader education for all children, cutting availabilities within schools for kids to be exposed to, nurtured by and learn essential skills for life long benefits. Theatre is a dying art in this country, and most of the arts are suffering from a lack of financial and outward government support, but I believe should be as supported and deeply ingrained and implemented as sport is. We rely on our abilities to communicate, to work within teams, to develop ideas and create projects to bring these ideas to fruition. Theatre and acting skills are key to these, and need to be nurtured and implemented from a young age and carried through to the end of high school. Good Mental health depends on art and arts equally as sport and fitness does, and they all should be encouraged together. Our artists, whether they are painters, film crew technicians, playwrights, designers and actors, lead on the world stage for such a small population, despite the need for more support in government policy. Theatre companies are in desperate need of more funding to realise the incredible work they are capable of producing. Artists all round, and I know from personal lived experience, earn well below the average wage and yet are still taxed highly, proportionate of their consistent yearly incomes. The tax threshold could be increased to \$25 or even \$30k, as most theatre actors I know earn less than this. The hours spent unpaid in creating a theatre production is a common complaint of actors and theatre practitioners, despite working for a main stage theatre company. We need to nurture our arts community, nurture our theatre makers and enable the growth of our Australian culture for the future