

National Cultural Policy Submission

1472901

Public and anonymous

Individual



Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

To the Members of the Australian Parliament,

I write to express serious concerns regarding the proposed cultural legislation currently under consideration, specifically provisions that would formally prioritise art and culture produced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples above that of other Australians.

While I deeply respect the significance of First Nations culture and its place in Australia's national identity, legislation that grants preferential treatment to creative works on the basis of the artist's ethnicity sets a troubling precedent. Australia is founded on principles of equality and equal rights of expression. These values apply to all citizens and they must, by definition, apply without exception.

When the ethnicity of an artist becomes a formal determinant of the standing or funding of their work, we have crossed from recognition into discrimination. Compassionate intent does not change this outcome. Policies that assign different value to cultural expression based on racial identity are, by their nature, racially discriminatory regardless of which group is favoured or the historical motivations behind the policy.

I urge Parliament to consider frameworks that celebrate and protect First Nations culture without creating a legislative hierarchy of artistic worth based on ethnicity. Recognition and equality are not mutually exclusive and legislation that treats them as such does a disservice to all Australians.

I respectfully request that these concerns be considered in the review of this legislation