

National Cultural Policy Submission

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Public and anonymous

Individual

Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

Creating this open consultation with the sector, arts workers and artists is so important. However, I am coming this with an experience of burnout and cynicism, rather than creative energy and optimism. In the 2 decades I've dedicated to my career and this industry (screen and theatre), I am now facing a cross roads: to stay put and struggle to be creative when I'm in constant survival mode, or find a way to transition to a new career. Therefore, I am coming to this submission with this baggage (I can't help it). Here are ways that I think this industry requires transformation:

Give artists a sustainable income. We can't create if we're in constant survival mode. This can be done by:

- a. Create a universal basic income for artists - look at Ireland's example.
- b. Restore funding to pre-Brandis cuts. Bring back dedicated funding for small-to-medium and independent artists in a meaningful and dedicated way. Don't make us all fight over the same small crumbs.
- c. Allow artists to access social security support that doesn't punish them in ways through mutual obligations and bureaucracy.
- d. Make grants and prizes tax-free.
- e. Release the sector from the bonds of not-for-profit requirements, and support, encourage and reward financial sustainability

Change the way our funding agencies operate and work:

- a. Increase funding budgets to Screen Australia and Creative Australia
- b. Increase the headcount at the agencies, so they have enough staff to deliver on the required level of support the sector needs without the staff experiencing burnout (I'm speaking from experience as a former staffer at Screen Australia). This also means increasing budgets and fees for external assessors and consultants on short-term activities.