

National Cultural Policy Submission

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Public and anonymous



Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

My name is [REDACTED], and I live and work in Alice Springs since 2023. Since 2007, I have been involved in community services, disability support, theatre, film, and cultural activities in both India and Australia. I am also involved in promoting multicultural arts and supporting regional communities through creative programs, workshops, and film screenings.

Culture is very important in regional Australia, especially in places like Alice Springs where people from different backgrounds live together. Arts and culture help connect communities, support mental wellbeing, preserve stories, and create opportunities for young people. However, regional artists and cultural workers face many challenges, including limited funding, lack of infrastructure, fewer training opportunities, and high travel costs.

One of the biggest challenges is that many talented artists in remote and regional areas do not get the same opportunities as people in major cities. Local creatives often struggle to access grants, professional networks, venues, and national platforms. Multicultural artists and migrant communities also need stronger support to share their stories and traditions.

I believe the new National Cultural Policy should focus more on regional and remote communities. Funding and support should be easier to access for grassroots organisations, independent artists, and multicultural projects. There should also be more investment in community theatres, film programs, youth workshops, and cultural festivals in regional towns.

Another important area is supporting young people through arts and culture. Creative activities can reduce social isolation, improve confidence, and provide positive pathways for youth. Governments should support more arts education, leadership programs, and cultural exchange opportunities for young people living in remote areas.

The policy should also recognise the importance of cultural diversity. Australia is a multicultural country, and every community has stories worth sharing. Supporting culturally diverse artists will help strengthen social connection and understanding between communities.

Finally, I believe arts and culture should not only be seen as entertainment but also as a way to build stronger, healthier, and more connected communities. Investing in culture is investing in people.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this submission.