

National Cultural Policy Submission

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Public

Individual

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Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

Australia's cultural future should recognise that contemporary artists are increasingly required to operate as entire creative ecosystems, not simply producers of work. Alongside making art, many artists now independently manage documentation, publishing, promotion, distribution, archiving, audience development, and digital presentation across rapidly evolving technological platforms.

This shift has created both opportunity and pressure. New technologies have expanded access to creative tools and audiences, but they have also accelerated content saturation, instability, and the expectation that artists constantly maintain visibility in order to sustain their practice. As a result, many artists spend significant time balancing creative development with the operational demands of remaining professionally active.

I believe future cultural policy should continue supporting traditional institutions while also recognising the growing importance of independent cultural infrastructure. Many artists are now building long-term creative ecosystems outside conventional pathways through self-publishing, interdisciplinary practice, digital platforms, independent archives, and direct engagement with audiences. These evolving models are becoming an increasingly important part of how Australian culture is created, experienced, and preserved.

Supporting sustained creative practice — rather than only short-term project outcomes — allows deeper and more meaningful cultural records to emerge over time. Artists play an important role in documenting contemporary Australian life, identity, architecture, environment, and social change, yet many practices operate within increasingly unstable financial and spatial conditions. Affordable and accessible creative space remains essential to sustaining serious long-term artistic development and cultural contribution.

International models such as Ireland's Basic Income for the Arts pilot also raise important questions around how long-term creative stability can support experimentation, cultural preservation, and sustained artistic practice beyond short funding cycles.

Technology and AI will continue reshaping creative practice, but cultural policy should remain focused on supporting human creative vision, lived experience, and individual artistic perspective. Technology can assist creative processes, but it should not replace the cultural value of human observation, critical thinking, and creative authorship.

Australia's cultural future should support artists not only as content producers, but as long-term contributors to the country's cultural memory, identity, and evolving creative landscape.