

National Cultural Policy Submission

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Public

Individual

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Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

I am making this submission on behalf of the Language Data Commons of Australia (LDA CA). The aims of LDA CA are to make nationally significant language data available in a culturally, ethically and legally appropriate manner for academic and community use, provide a model for ensuring continued access with appropriate community control, and to provide resources for reusing and repurposing language data in ways that address community needs and aspirations (<https://www.ldaca.edu.au/>).

In relation to proposed new Australia's National Cultural Policy, two key areas of critical importance in the view of LDA CA are: (1) ensuring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island languages and cultural materials are made much more readily accessible to those communities in question; and (2) securing Australia's oral history heritage.

Our view is that in order to realise the Pillar 1 of the proposed new National Cultural Policy, it should:

(1) engage directly with the new Collections Strategy being developed by First Languages Australia (FLA) as part of its work in the Language Policy Partnerships (LPP): <https://www.firstlanguages.org.au/language-policy-partnership>; and

(2) establish an Indigenous Governance Framework that is informed by the "Framework for the Governance of Indigenous Data" developed by the Indigenous Data Network (IDN) and LDA CA: <https://ardc.edu.au/resource/framework-for-the-governance-of-indigenous-data-hass-and-indigenous-research-data-commons/>).

Our view is that in order to realise the Pillar 2 of the proposed new National Cultural Policy, it should engage directly with LDA CA on its approach to securing and making available oral history collections, in particular, work being led by Professor Catherine Travis at ANU.

Our view is that in order to realise the Pillar 4 of the proposed new National Cultural Policy, there should be efforts to more clearly articulate the relationship between cultural infrastructure (supported through the Office for the Arts) and research infrastructure (supported through the Department of Education), and to align government support appropriately. For community members and researchers with a stake in Indigenous language and cultural materials or oral histories held in GLAM institutions, the distinction between cultural and research infrastructure is unhelpful.