

**National Cultural Policy Submission**

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Public

Individual

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Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

From the 1960s until c1996 government support (Commonwealth + state) triggered a revolution in the arts in Australia. In NSW the Wyndham Scheme with its an emphasis on arts education gave employment for artists, brought new audiences for the arts & gave opportunities to children from less than privileged backgrounds (Kim Williams was taught by Richard Gill). Art/Drama/Music/Performance education expanded in universities. Art Galleries, arts centres were opened. NIDA opened expanded. Our art and artists became international ambassadors for Australia. After the election of the Howard government the arts – which bring so much wealth (in all meanings of the word) were put on a starvation diet. I am so glad to see that the tide has started to turn, but is now no longer possible for most to earn a living as a writer/artist/creative.

I welcome the new initiatives of this arts policy, but ideas are not enough. We need real funding for arts education in schools (all schools, not just the rich ones). There also needs to be a recognition that being creative can often be a solitary process.

The Australia Council's individual grant system of the 1970s worked. Please bring it back.

Making art is not enough – it needs to seen. This is especially true of literature. Our books need to compete with the US + UK mass market imports. To level the playing field our publishers need support (including with marketing). We need ways to fund new Australian TV and streaming productions – they should not be dependent on crumbs from Netflix's table. Lack of local funding meant that Bluey is controlled by the BBC. We need to fund our talent.