

National Cultural Policy Submission

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Public

Individual

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Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

I am an emerging art historian and writer, currently completing my Honours at the University of Melbourne. I am in support of the new cultural policy, and recognise/hope that this new strategy will work to cover some of the blind spots in Revive.

To me, the critical failure of Revive was its lack of support for emerging cultural practitioners. How can there be a sustainable culture industry if we are not supporting new talent? When I finish my degree in June, I will be more than \$50,000 in debt. Had I begun my degree before the Job-Ready Graduates Scheme, this number would be more than halved. Cuts to funding across the arts in Victoria (and Tasmania where I grew up) have resulted in the shuttering of early-career opportunities for creative practitioners across the board. There is no funding allocated to graduate positions in the public bodies that constitute the GLAM sector. Opportunities in the writing field, especially with regards to literary magazines are drying up, and similarly there are no initiatives to support emerging artists with crucial studio spaces or gallery opportunities. Australia needs young cultural leaders if our industry is going to be sustainable in the long term. But saddled with crushing debt and with an increasingly slender list of options before us, it is no surprise that many of us who graduate from creative pathways opt to pursue other career opportunities.

I urge you to consider the prospects of young creatives in the new cultural policy, without whom there will be no culture of the future. Supporting emerging creative practitioners is critical to the ongoing sustainability of Australian culture.