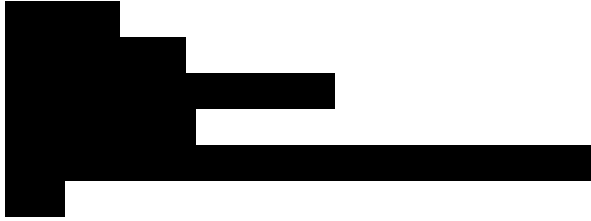


National Cultural Policy Submission

1466726

Public and anonymous



Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

It is absolutely criminal that the arts contribute so much to society, both in terms of quality of life and economics, and yet are so sidelined and underfunded. Writers who win a prize are taxed, sometimes up to or exceeding 50%, but lottery winners aren't. Big business is under-taxed when taxing more could help fund more artists and projects - as it is, that funding has been so stripped away over the years that artists and writers are forced to compete for crumbs, and few ever get funded. Way too many of us live on the poverty line, and many of us struggle with meeting basic needs, such as secure housing (in an ever-worsening housing and cost-of-living crisis). The Australian government has a responsibility to take creatives who have made a cultural contribution and continue to do so seriously and show us some respect, not just in lip service, but in terms that make our lives more livable and value us in real terms. As Gough would say, it's time.