

National Cultural Policy Submission

Submitted: Johanna Mulholland

I write as a parent and arts worker concerned about the erosion of the Arts' status in our society, and by extension, in our schools. It is critical that our National Cultural Policy underpins Strong Institutions and celebrates artists as creators of culture.

For too long, the small-medium sector has been funded to fail and our sector is collapsing. Burn-out is endemic and wages have stagnated leading to skills and staffing shortages.

The benefits of enabling young people to participate in, learn from and help shape our culture are undeniable. If young Australians are to survive and thrive in the future, it is critical that they benefit from the critical-thinking, creative problem-solving and collaborative practices that are essential to Arts practice and in which artists are expert.

I support the Youth Arts Sector's submission, including their 4 Key Recommendations, namely to:

1. Include "Young People's Engagement" as a priority of the National Cultural Policy;
2. Establish an ongoing funding stream for Young People's Arts and investment in companies whose core business is young people's engagement, to be administered by the Australia Council for the Arts;
3. Establish a separate stream of funding for Young People's engagement and participation to be made available to Health, Employment and the Arts – co-managed by the Australia Council;
4. Establish Young People's Advisory Committees that reflect the diversity of young Australians, managed independently, as an ongoing standing committee for the Australia Council for the Arts and the Minister for the Arts.

Thank you for the opportunity to be heard.

Sincerely,

Johanna Mulholland