

National Cultural Policy Submission

Anonymous

Submitted: As a worker/professional in an industry who uses arts (e.g. art therapist, tour guide)

First Nations Aborigines are just one of hundreds of cultural groups in Australia. *ALL* of our cultures should be recognised, respected and celebrated, not just one that is a tiny minority. Aboriginal cultures are not “central to the uniqueness of the Australian identity”, and it is inappropriate, indeed offensively racist, to foist them on the rest of the population as somehow special.

A Place for Every Story This seems like it is pandering to the ‘inclusion and diversity’ zeitgeist. But it is in direct opposition to goal #1 above. You can’t have it both ways.

Strong Institutions Recent restructures of all the national and all state libraries have replaced knowledgeable, expert, specialist curators with generalist public servants without in-depth knowledge of any particular field. This is of great detriment to the preservation and communication of the (printed) cultural treasures those libraries preserve. It is a bureaucratic direction taken by no other country, and indeed other libraries around the world have looked on with horror as we have de-skilled and dumbed down our library workforce. We need a central policy that encourages and rewards expertise and cultural engagement with the community, rather than bureaucrats who flit from role to role, without engaging with and contributing to cultural discussions at a meaningful level. We urgently need to de-bureaucratise the library sector, and foster passion, scholarship and expertise.

Reaching the Audience Digitisation of GLAM sector materials is impeded by accounting procedures that discourage instead of encourage mass digitisation. Digitisation is vital to ensure all Australians, wherever they lie, can access and engage with resources housed in GLAM institutions. We need accounting policies, and general procedures that foster efficiency in digitisation and digital delivery, rather than add unnecessary costs and paperwork.

Are there any other things that you would like to see in a National Cultural Policy?

Explicit respect for *all* cultures in Australia, be these Australian or not. No one culture is more, or less, special than any other. None should be elevated on a pedestal. Let’s end racism in the arts.