

## **Arts Funder Network (Philanthropy Australia) National Cultural Policy Submission**

Philanthropy Australia is the peak body for philanthropy in Australia and facilitates a range of “funder networks” for members’ participation. The Arts Funder Network consists of philanthropic trusts, foundations, and individuals from all over Australia with a shared goal to provide more and better support to Australian artists and the cultural sector more broadly. There are over 70 members of this national network.

Each member of the network provides significant financial support to arts and cultural initiatives every year and we congratulate the government on the decision to create a National Cultural Policy.

Australia’s productivity, artistic vibrancy, health, well-being, and cultural maturity are all dependent on the creation of a coherent National Cultural Policy which is implemented across all three levels of government. We support each of the five pillars as a useful frame around which to build a cohesive policy. Below are some suggestions for implementable inclusions in the policy which would have a positive material impact on Australia’s productivity.

### **Policy Implementation**

- National Cultural Policy to be a whole-of-government policy with each department responsible for embedding policy within its activities and reporting on progress against shared KPIs,
- Each Minister to employ a Cultural Officer, responsible for connecting the departments within that Minister’s remit with the National Cultural Policy,
- Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet to employ a Cultural Secretary responsible for managing Cultural Officers, and
- Create a four-year review cycle for National Cultural Policy. Commit to creating a dynamic, iterative, and evolving policy that balances immediate opportunities with long term vision.

### **Driving Up Demand to Increase Productivity**

- Tickets to live performances and exhibitions, presented by not-for-profit organisations, to be tax deductible for median and below-median wage earners, up to a specified cap,
- Artwork bought from recognised/certified indigenous art centre by median and below-median wage earners to be tax deductible, up to a specified cap, and
- Public transport, to and from live performance and ticketed exhibitions by not-for-profit organisations, to be free upon presentation of performance ticket.

### **Making the Australia Council and Australian Culture More Visible**

- Australia Council to employ State Managers to improve visibility and accessibility between Council and artists across the country, and
- Australia Council to scope out the creation and delivery of *Aus-Art* – an introductory program delivered through primary schools designed to introduce young people and families to the benefits of engaging with creativity. Modelled on the AFL’s *Auskick* program.

### **Regulatory Refreshments to Improve Productivity and Retain Workforce**

- ACNC to allow Private Ancillary Funds to count future year (up to a maximum of three years) grant commitments towards current year’s target – in essence, encouraging more multi-year funding to DGR organisations. Doing so improves cash-flow certainty for recipients which, in

turn, allows for greater productivity and workforce retention on the part of the recipient, and

- Expand the ATO's list of 'specialty professionals' able to access income smoothing provisions to include technical and production staff working in casual, short-term contracts, in live performance industries.
- Introduce new structures and incentives to increase philanthropic support to arts organisations such as Living Legacy Trusts, removing barriers to donating from superannuation, and reforming DGR eligibility so more arts and cultural charities can receive tax deductible donations.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute this submission. Please do not hesitate to contact us to follow up on any of the above suggestions.

Dr Neal Harvey, Chair of *Philanthropy Australia's Arts Funder Network* on behalf of the Network.