

National Cultural Policy Submission

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

Dear Minister Burke,

Please accept my congratulations to the Government for this initiative. I particularly like the 'five pillars'.

I was made a Member in the Order of Australia (AM) from the Government in 1998 'for my work in the protection and preservation of folklife in Australia'. Folklife being 'the culture of everyday life'. I was one of three people commissioned in 1986 to conduct an Inquiry into Folklife in Australia, and our report was published in 1987 by the AGPS as **Folklife: Our Living Heritage**.

I would ask your team working on the New National Cultural Policy to re-examine the Folklife Report, particularly its 51 recommendations, of which none have been implemented.

Some of the report is obsolete, but a great deal of it is not. It has had some international recognition, such as the initial support from the Smithsonian Institution for the Inquiry, and from UNESCO, such as the 2004 placement of the Australian Children's Folklife Collection on the Australian UNESCO Memory of the World Register.

The new National Cultural Policy should consider the role of all levels of education in relation to our national culture. In particular, the culture of childhood is severely neglected. An Australian Research Council project, *Childhood, Tradition and Change* (2007-2010) showed that Australian tertiary institutions have little teaching about children's important play culture.

I regret that the media release was headed **A new era for the arts in Australia**. A national cultural policy is not only concerned with the creative arts, but with culture in its widest forms, and with the researchers, conservators and archivists who 'protect and preserve' it. The town hall meetings should not only encourage artists to attend, but also the conservators and archivists who care for their work.

Please accept my warmest good wishes for this important project.

Sincerely

Gwenda Davey