

# National Cultural Policy Submission

**Anonymous**

**Submitted:** As an individual; As an artist

## What challenges and opportunities do you see in the pillar or pillars most relevant to you?

### First Nations

More access and support needs to be provided to FN artists.

### A Place for Every Story

There is not enough money in the budget for the arts so only “safe” stories get funded. Stories that tick all the boxes. There is no scope for experimentation, and without experimentation, art does not evolve and artists do not grow. The government needs to support risk taking in the arts if you want to see more diverse stories.

### The Centrality of the Artist

Absolutely not enough funding to live without fear and stress as an artist in Australia. It is so shameful. The general population does not understand how much they all rely on the arts to get them through hard times: music, TV shows, comedy, etc, the arts are there to help people feel more connected and understand themselves and their place in the world better. But people don't appreciate that. The culture in Australia is to consider artists as bludgers who do what they want, or do very little to contribute to the community. On top of that, obviously there is not enough funding to support artists. We are worse than second class citizens. No wonder so many fantastic artists leave Australia, or quit, or suffer from mental health burdens for their whole career.

### Strong Institutions

The Blue Room Theatre, Perth's home of independent theatre, which has a long history of supporting emerging artists who go on to be international successes (Tim Minchin, The Last Great Hunt), lost its funding. The government has cut funding for so many institutions, it is impossible for anyone to feel safe in the industry. All arts orgs need more funding.

### Reaching the Audience

It's very simple. The arts needs more money from the government. How can an organisation develop new audiences on a shoestring budget? No company can take any risks, because they are all one show away from bankruptcy (see: Perth Theatre Company). Invest in artists and arts orgs, to see audiences be developed.

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

A living wage for artists. More funding, accessible funding, on every level. A media campaign that rewrites the culture in Australia. Let's champion and celebrate our artists, rather than allow them to struggle and be overlooked/underappreciated.