

National Cultural Policy Submission

I am putting forward this submission as a **professional at a not-for-profit arts organisation**, as an **artist**, as a **young person**, and as an **individual**.

Please tell us how each of the 5 pillars are important to you and your practice and why.

A Place for Every Story

Currently, there is a lack of youth voice in Australian culture. Young people are the future of Australian culture and should have an established place in the National Cultural Policy. Engaging young people only serves to benefit Australian culture. One of the most effective ways to engage young people is through arts organisations.

It has been proven that engaging young people in the arts delivers:

- An increase in wellbeing including resilience and the ability to overcome challenges;
- An improvement in self-esteem and sense of self-worth;
- A greater connection to community and enhanced sense of belonging;
- An improvement across all areas of curriculum learning;
- The development in creative thinking, problem solving and working collaboratively; and
- An increased willingness to participate in community activities such as volunteering and voting.

There are proven benefits to increasing youth engagement in the arts. The idea that engaging young people in the arts is only good for creating future artists is false. Engaging Australians in arts from a young age not only benefits the creative industry, but impacts Australians health, education, and sense of community. Engaging with the arts from a young age creates better citizens.

Strong Institutions

I am an artist and an arts worker. I have been engaging with performing arts since I was in primary school. I come from

I began my career at [REDACTED], as an artist and a workshop teacher. I am now working in administration and teaching at [REDACTED]. Working with these institutions as an artist and an arts worker has positively impacted many aspects of my life, including my mental health and my own creative practice. Both of these institutions have been defunded. My career, my closest professional and personal relationships, and my mental health have all been positively impacted by both of these institutions, and I am not the only one. In order to continue to create culture in Australia we need to invest in institutions that engage people in arts and culture from a young age.

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

I support the 4 key recommendations put forward by the Australian Theatre for Young People (ATYP). They are:

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.