

National Cultural Policy Submission

Name: Artist Income Equity Group

Submitted: As an artist

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

The Centrality of the Artist

We are an artist led research initiative that is seeking to understand the income equity of professionally practicing visual artists.

Our early research suggests that there is EXTREME income inequity between arts workers and visual artists. Curators can commonly earn above 80K, those in arts organisations can earn 50-70K with their management teams earning upwards of 100K annually. Our early data, that has **not** been combined across arts workers and artists, shows that in the last 2 years, some artists have been earning as little as 5-10K with many earning 20-30K annually, with a lucky few earning between 30-50K.

How is this fair? It is no exaggeration to state that this industry would not exist without the artists it purports to support.

We strongly feel that **arts workers** deserve every dollar they earn and more. The arts as an industry would also not exist without their work and advocacy! Many of us are both artists and arts workers!

We want to see artists equally compensated for the cultural labour and development that they contribute to our society.

Professionally practicing visual artists have invested in their work with an academic degree, most engage in important research and seek to positively develop our world. Like any other citizen investing in their future, we deserve to be paid a living wage!

Reaching the Audience

Our nation has developed a cultural mythology around our sports people. Every night on the nightly news there is a segment to continue fostering this mythology.

There is significant data, put out from major arts and cultural institutions such as the NGV, that shows our nation engages in the arts just as much as it does sports. And that is WITHOUT as much reporting support as the sports industry receives.

IMAGINE the positive cultural shift that could occur if news outlets were required to report on arts events as often as they reported on sports events? Imagine the impact to artists and the industry if they were actively included in the national conversation!

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

STOP AGGREGATING THE DATA ACROSS CREATIVE INDUSTRIES, ARTS WORKERS AND ARTISTS.

We cannot emphasise this enough! This has been a method from the Liberal government to bend the data to a more positive result. This does not accurately show the lived experience of artists.

Data is so important. Data is the very thing that governments use to drive policy. If the data is inaccurate any policy changes will not create meaningful changes.

WE WANT DATA FOR VISUAL ARTISTS (AND ALL ARTISTS) SEPARATED OUT AND REPORTED ON ACCURATELY.

We want to see the data separated out for each creative industry, for example, the experience of the music industry is VERY different to experiences in the visual arts industry- this should be accurately reflected in the data.