

National Cultural Policy Submission

Name: Jem Moloney

Submitted: As an artist; As an individual

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

A Place for Every Story

Our music/art is not taken as seriously and/or often excluded from funding despite having worked on it for 25 years. Our music is challenging to some but this should not make it any less valid. Councils and funding bodies should reflect the actual community – not be taste makers.

Artists are chronically underpaid thereby excluding those who can't afford to participate. I am constantly seeing good musicians ceasing performing as they can no longer afford to. This impacts especially on single parents, carers, people with a disability, low income and more.

The Centrality of the Artist

Artists are not entrusted enough to create – there is too much meddling in the process. A body of work should be proof enough that an artist knows best what to create. Trust and support the artists and let them create.

Typically at a show the musician is the only person not being paid or provided any kind of worker safety.

Reaching the Audience

Reaching the audience was previously more achievable via publicly funded means such as Triple J, ABC programs etc but these are less available to artists now, especially if they don't fit the mainstream categories.

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

First Nations

Crucial. Whole culture is enriched when Indigenous voices are amplified.

A Place for Every Story

Our communities are more diverse than people realise. Not everyone is given the same chance to be heard.

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

Please support and enforce the \$250 minimum for government funded shows. And have actual consequences for people who breach this for their own profit. This is a good place to start.

Also models that are actually sustainable – a venue charging \$10 entry, 100 cap room, 20 musicians on stage that night....this should not be acceptable as it is mathematically impossible for the bands to get paid.

Artists are generating money for others, we should not be paying for the privilege to do this.

We are exhausted from asking for this. This is a health issue too. I have lost too many musician friends to suicide who have been treated appallingly by this industry.