

National Cultural Policy Submission

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Submitted: As an artist

What challenges and opportunities do you see in the pillar or pillars most relevant to you? Feel free to respond to any or all pillars:

Strong Institutions

I am an independent playwright, dramaturg and poet, I also teach and mentor and do many things to support my practice. There is a lack of funded institutions to support and nurture artists at different stages of development and those that can support artists over a whole career / lifetime. For example, in Melbourne/Naarm where I live, there are only two well-funded theatre companies and these each put on less than 10 new works by Australian playwrights or writing teams per year. We need a number of mid-sized theatre companies making work that sits outside, between and around the main stages so that more kinds of plays and stories are made and told and a greater range of artists can be supported over many years not just in 1-2 year commissioning processes.

Please tell us how each of the 5 pillars are important to you and your practice and why. Feel free to respond to any or all that are applicable to you:

First Nations

First Nations leadership at every level of arts and culture decision-making must be a core part of Australia's policies.

A Place for Every Story

More ways to acknowledge and provide space for a greater range of storytelling and art making. A reduction in the profit-making model. A reduction in the 'star making' culture and an emphasis on arts embedded at every level of education and in communities in a variety of ways.

The Centrality of the Artist

I want to see artists on every think tank, panel, public institution, media show, the news, in every school and at work places across the country. Artists think broadly, deeply, creatively and are vital to the way we interrogate language, see things differently and make way for change.

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Reaching the Audience

Artists need to be everywhere so that everyone realises they can be an artist. In schools, community settings, work places, the media, public institutions, private corporations. Art is not elite or special. Yes those who train for years become expert and skilled. But, like sport, every person can engage and every person deserves the right to a rich artistic life.