

# National Cultural Policy Submission

## **Punctum**

Submitted: On behalf of a not-for-profit arts organization and 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**

Democracy is our nation's collective project.

Where culture is positioned as a public good in the life of the nation, democracy flourishes.

Our nation's cultural institutions are thus public mechanisms which value, express and offer this national project. More than cultural infrastructure managed by a highly trained work force, the spectrum of public mechanisms sustaining our cultural expression of democracy is best understood as an ecosystem. This ecosystem in its diversity of scale, voices, visions, skills, expressions, networks, and interconnections is strong when support for collectively shared resources, and knowledge, knowhow and change is embraced and available. A strong ecosystem is adaptive and can be understand through the lens of evolution, interconnectedness and rapid change.

As a regionally based live arts organisation, Punctum has undertaken and applied this lens to our research and models of production since 2009. Despite our small size (EFT staff currently 1.4), we have created, piloted and evaluated collegiate models of partnership and collaboration locally, nationally and internationally. These models are bold experiments in sustainable creative industry production and engagement. Their success is in how they make meaning and hold relevance in the communities in which they're located for artists, audiences, and partners. They play a critical role in sustaining the greater ecology in which we work. As a 'cultural institution', Punctum

has led in creating and piloting these values and strength based collegiate models of production within our national cultural ecology. Our evaluations and data speak to their great success. But because these models do not mirror or easily sit within pre- covid systems of production and are considered 'new' and 'complex', support to build our capacity to increase their reach and impact is rare.

A new Cultural Policy for Australia will shape a complex cultural ecosystem which is in and of itself a cultural institution of democracy. It would support collegiate models of collaboration, exchange and partnership of ALL scales, within and outside the confines of cultural infrastructure, across government ministries, across levels of government and across Australia. Through its mechanisms of support for innovative models of collaboration, it would inform and strengthen the contemporary spirit and expression of what a cultural institution is and could become, and who we are as a democratic nation.

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:

### **Strong Institutions**

As above