

National Cultural Policy Submission



RED
TREE
THEATRE

RED TREE THEATRE

160 - 162 Pacific Highway, Darkinjung Country
Tuggerah, 2259
www.eldersleefoundation.org.au

August 21st 2022

Dear Minister Burke

Red Tree Theatre is a community theatre venue/producing body on Darkinjung Country on the NSW Central Coast. We are owned and operated by The Elderslee Foundation.

The foundation is managed by a board that provides expertise and experience to the organisation's governance. In recent years, the foundation provided funding to a broad range of not-for-profit organisations to support community- focussed programs and facilities for the Central Coast community. These ranged from one-off grants to funding for specific projects across a specified number of years and varying amounts (\$4000 – \$200,000+). Over time it has funded over 50 projects, each getting a portion of over \$5 million, representing a considerable investment in supporting Central Coast residents.

In 2018 we began our most significant project, the creation of this theatre space. Since opening in 2020, it has become a community and professional arts hub.

Since then, artistically, one of the most significant impacts has been via Jopuka Productions. Jopuka are leaders in our community, and we support them each year through our Red Tree Theatre Commission.

Jopuka are leaders in youth arts, and we believe further support of that sector will significantly improve the lives of young people in our region;

We agree with the following points;

1. Include "Young People's Engagement with the Arts" as a priority of the National Cultural Plan.
2. Establish an ongoing, dedicated funding stream for Young People's Engagement with the Arts for companies whose core business is young people's engagement, administered by the Australia Council for the Arts;
3. Establish targeted, cross-department streams of funding for Young People's Engagement to work with Health and Mental Health, Employment, Youth Justice, Regional Youth and Education – co-managed by the Australia Council
4. Establish Advisory Boards that represent the diversity of young Australians, managed independently, as ongoing standing committees for the Australia Council for the Arts and the Minister for the Arts.

Regards

Ruth Jordon

Venue Manager Red Tree Theatre

On behalf of Elderslee Foundation

