

# National Cultural Policy Submission

## Anonymous

Submitted: As a worker/professional in an industry who uses arts (e.g. art therapist, tour guide); 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:

## The Centrality of the Artist

Over the last few years the Australian Creative industry has slowly been defunded, devalued and disrupted. Look at how the recovery program from Covid-19 is only focused on large scale events, festivals and institutions. (Tourist outcomes only)

I look to the future and what decisions we can make now to create a robust creative ecology for the next generation of artists and audiences to engage with the arts meaningfully.

- In 2015 the Artstart program was stopped. There is currently no meaningful programs for emerging artist to help them begin their career.
- There is now a new term "Early Start" artist because emerging has become so ambiguous.
- Funding is focused on large-scale institutions and well-known and established artists.
- Creative Victoria, Australian Council and other funding bodies are making decisions based on what is safe and how well known the artist/s are. Not innovation or pushing new ideas and forms. The best example is that Creative Victorias Music stream is focused on main stream genres and not allowing emerging art forms or similar opportunities for artists.
- Music Festivals and Art Festivals need to report (**Percentages**) how many artists/musicians from **diverse** backgrounds and **local** and **national** musicians are represented on the bill/event. If the event is government supported, this

needs to be reported. Why are so many international artists filling festival line-ups?

- Funding for Mental Health Support needs to be in all grant applications and opportunities. Mental Health workers should be present and available during events and tours.
- If a new parent needs to take carers or their partner on tour or residency to look after the child. This needs to be covered by the grant or funding.

## **Strong Institutions**

- We need to decentralise from urban areas to interface suburbs and regional
- Interface suburbs need to get representation with funding. Often these artists face challenges similar to regional artists.

How can Australia look to the future if we do not have the facilities to encourage the next generation of artists? We need to create and support facilities enabling New Media, Experimental Arts, Performance and Music to push the boundaries. It is lovely to tour large-scale art installations from Europe. But how can Australia ever compete if we don't have the facilities to help the next generation experiment, take risks and be encouraged? Local Governments are perfectly placed to create spaces for the next generation. We have so many facilities for the established traditional artforms. Let us look to the weird, the wonderful and the experimental! The Substation and Carriage Works are good examples of venues pushing something different and supporting artists simultaneously.