

National Cultural Policy Submission

Noro Music Therapy

Submitted: On behalf of a not-for-profit arts organisation

On behalf of an organisation with arts-components (e.g. community organisation, tourism, venue, health, education etc)

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:

First Nations

Music plays a central role to in First Nations cultures, forming connection and sharing knowledge and culture. Collaboration with First Nations individuals and organisations can help inform our approach as we engage with the greater community.

A Place for Every Story

Music is a powerful communication tool. We often recognise our own experiences in the songs of others. With the right support, everyone can explore, express and share their story. Sometimes this can uncover complex and challenging memories and emotions. Music can also assist people through illness, trauma and other challenges. Registered Music Therapists have the skills and training to safely facilitate these journeys.

The Centrality of the Artist

There will always be a place for the virtuoso, however music is also a communal activity for almost every culture known to history. Community music provides all members of the community opportunities to explore their artistic identity and connect with others through music.

Strong Institutions

Public and community music institutions play an important role in facilitating access to musical experiences. This is an important safety net for individuals with limited access to music through private means.

Reaching the Audience

The past few years have seen new challenges in audience engagement. Virtual workarounds provided interim stopgaps. For many, a return to live music in shared spaces has been a much-needed social reconnection. For others however, covid conditions have provided impetus for innovation in musical accessibility.

Some of our participants have been able to engage programs online they would not have been able to attend in person due to mobility and community access challenges.

Some of our autistic participants have found virtual music more accessible as the digital interface relieved some of the social burden experienced in face-to-face interaction, enabling them to engage more freely in virtual musical collaborations.

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

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands on which we work and pay respects to their Elders past and present. We welcome opportunities to engage with First Nations individuals and organisations in musical collaborations.

A Place for Every Story

Music can help people explore, understand, articulate and share their story. This may be a daunting prospect for some, especially for those who haven't experienced music making before. For others, musical explorations may uncover complex and challenging memories and emotions. Working through these experiences with skilled support can be a liberating and rewarding experience. Community musicians often have these skills. In some cases, music therapists provide specialist services to support vulnerable people with specific needs.

The Centrality of the Artist

We strongly believe music is for everyone regardless of age, situation, capability and musical experience. Our Registered Music Therapists and community musicians support members of the community to access their musical identity and use this to explore and express their experiences and emotions and connect with their community.

Strong Institutions

As a community organisation, we are focused on creating innovative ways to support members of our community access the transformative powers of music. Philanthropic and government grant programs as well as government funding programs such as the NDIS enable us to minimise the costs we need to pass on to participants.

Reaching the Audience

Our understanding of audience may be slightly different to some. Helping people reach their full potential through music is our reason for being. For us, our audience are central to the making of music

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

Social prescribing is gathering momentum around the world to connect people to improve wellbeing. Music programs are excellent ways to gather people to create connection and community.