

National Cultural Policy Submission

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Submitted: As an Artist; As an Individual
(RMIT Graduate Diploma in Visual Merchandising)

**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

Challenges & Opportunities:

- Continually acknowledge and embrace all First Nations Arts.

A Place For Every Story

Challenges & Opportunities:

- Representation is important.
- Art is a conversation. The artist's intentions may be different to how the audience receives it.
- We need a moral edict towards diverse conversations; to have safe conversations to reflect and educate ourselves.
- Acknowledge, support and make clear pathways for all artists of disabilities (physical, learning and mental disabilities)

The Centrality of the Artist

Challenges & Opportunities:

- Artists should be acknowledged as essential workers like any other employment.
- Artists should receive the same rights as other workers: fair pay, superannuation, personal and sick leave entitlements, government support, etc.

Strong Institutions

Challenges & Opportunities:

- All businesses should outreach to artists in creativity and design to increase job opportunities and improve the industries' benefits.
- All Art Departments and Boards need more funding.
- All levels of education and schools need more funding and support for the arts.

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

Is important to me because:

- History is important and we need to embrace all parts of our culture.
- To continually recognise and embrace First Nations Arts.

A Place For Every Story

Helps me and others:

- See that Art is a beautiful influence for ourselves and others.
- All Arts and Cultures are an experience we live, share and grow.
- Art can be used to make us feel and acknowledge deeper messages, to laugh, cry, smile, wonder and become curious.
- To know that artists have put in a lot of work, time and effort to find ways to connect to us and to show us who they are.
- We are either seeing, reading or hearing what this artist has to say.
- It's important to include other voices no matter how diverse they are because that's a good thing to expand our horizons and inspire us.

The Centrality of the Artist

Is important to me because:

- Like any other Australian I want job security.
- I can pursue my passion and it be valued as a serious career not a 'hobby'.

Strong Institutions

Is important to me because:

- I want organisations to support me in securing job opportunities.
- Art is not a 'want', it is a *need* in our society.