



Australian

Music

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Board

22 August 2022

Submission: *A new National Cultural Policy*

By: The Australian Music Examinations Board Ltd (AMEB)

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the development of Australia's new National Cultural Policy.

As a not-for-profit Australian organisation specialising in the delivery of inspiring world-class education and qualifications in music, speech, drama and dance, our submission is focussed on the performing arts and particularly on the importance of education as the foundation of a national cultural roadmap.

Our submission touches on all five pillars of the policy.

In order to position the arts at the centre of contemporary Australian life, we need to introduce music and performing arts into the lives of all Australians from an early age, and ensure that this continues all the way through adulthood.

The prime mechanism to achieve this is through educational programs. Programs that:

- Give children and adults the opportunity to explore the sound of their own voices, access musical instruments, move and dance through a space, and learn and grow.
- Are led by enthusiastic and qualified teachers who express joy and meaning in the learning process, and nurture the development of skills at individual and group levels.
- Incorporate diverse curriculum to truly reflect and celebrate the vast range of languages, cultures and arts that exist within the Australian community, particularly creating opportunities that encourage interaction with the cultural, historical and language aspects of First Nations songlines.

This will help to instil the value of the arts in our young people and inspire them to embrace and sustain their engagement with music and performing arts throughout their lives. In turn they will be more likely to spend their lives participating in the Australian arts as an artist or creator or audience member, or quite possibly all three. Ultimately these programs will help Australians to connect with, and stay connected to, the performing arts.

There are of course also many developmental benefits to be gained from music and performing arts education. Numerous studies have shown that cognitive function, brain development, coordination and mood all improve – and not just in children but adults too.

Australian Music
Examinations Board Limited
ABN 27 102 374 587

Federal Office
Level 27, 150 Lonsdale St,
Melbourne Victoria 3000
Ph. +61 (0) 3 8660 5800

AMEB is established by the Universities of Melbourne, Adelaide and Western Australia, the Minister for Education and Training New South Wales, the Minister for Education and Industrial Relations Queensland, and the Minister for Education and Skills Tasmania through the University of Tasmania.



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The obvious issues of accessibility do need to be addressed. In an ideal world every child in Australia should have access to performing arts education, regardless of their location or remoteness, gender and identity, socio-economic position, ability or disability, and language. This leads to the need for significant investment. As such we believe that policy visibility and whole of government approaches will be crucial.

In particular we consider the relationship between the arts and education critical, and would hope to see strong cross-portfolio collaboration between the Departments of the Arts and Education in the development and implementation of the National Cultural Policy.

We believe that the educational foundations we build today will enable future generations of Australian artists, entertainers, cultural ambassadors and audiences to emerge and flourish. This will lead us towards a progressive, vibrant, healthy and inclusive arts sector.

Bernard Depasquale

Chief Executive Officer

Australian Music Examinations Board Ltd