

# National Cultural Policy Submission

## **A>R>T (Arts Rich Together)**

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

**22 August 2022**

The Arts Rich Together Project (A>R>T) in South Australia (since 2013) is an unincorporated group of individuals who work in arts and education as artists, arts workers and educators. The group has been instrumental in encouraging research and applied arts education in SA through successfully translating an exemplar from Austin Texas through partnership with the University of Texas (Austin) into the local context. Evaluation that measured the impacts of the Texas model demonstrated improved attendance, maths scores and reading scores (Mindpop 2012). Now in SA schools a project in creative and body-based learning (CBL) is building capacity for learners to approach the primary curriculum with the assistance of the creative thinking of artists working alongside teachers.

Aside from the specific skills, knowledge and cognitive engagement within each art form; Arts Education is instrumental in providing a framework for equity, inclusivity, respect and well-being.

- Caters to different student needs – provides avenues for every student to learn in his or her preferred way, thus recognising different interests, strengths, talents and aspirations.
- Nurtures creative and critical thinking skills as important life-skills
- Encourages risk taking and creative problem solving.
- Connects students with their community and culture and creates opportunities for shared experiences to foster a sense of belonging and appreciation and understanding of other cultures.
- Develops interpersonal skills of empathy, social awareness and cultural sensitivities.
- Fosters confidence, and shows the strength of working together as a team player.

Positive effects of young people involved in arts-rich education programs include achievements in reading, language and mathematics development, increased higher order thinking skills and capacities, increased motivation to learn, and improvements in effective social behaviours.

Research: ( <https://naae.org.au/evidence-and-research>).

A growing body of international and Australian research demonstrates the multiple benefits of an arts-rich education from an early age. Over and above the obvious development of individual creativity and self-expression, school-based arts participation can increase learners' confidence and motivation, thereby improving school attendance rates, academic outcomes and the well-being and life skills of children and young people.

Ewing, R. (2010): *The Arts and Australian Education: Realising potential*. Australian Education Review

Fiske, E. (Ed.). (1999). *Champions of change: The impact of arts on learning*. Washington, DC: Arts Education Partnerships/President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities. Recently quoted by musician Anna Goldsworthy in an article in the Monthly June 2022, *Slow fade: an elegy for music, education and impoverished culture*, page 36.

National Arts Council, Singapore (2013): Arts Education

Caldwell, B.J, Vaughan, T., & Harris, J. The Song Room (2011). *Bridging The Gap In School Achievement Through The Arts*

Catterall, J. S., Dumais, S. A., & Hampden-Thompson, G. (2012) *The arts and achievement in the at-risk youth: Findings from four longitudinal studies*. Washington, DC: National Empowerment for the

<p><b>1. First Nations</b></p>	<p><b>Employ First Nations artists and arts education leaders in education and training for arts educators, teaching artists, pre-service teachers, teachers, and young people.</b></p> <p><b>First Nations and non-First Nations artists and educators to co-construct action research projects</b> for sustainable cultural practice and education.</p>
<p><b>2. A Place for Every Story</b></p>	<p><b>Employ artists in schools</b> to engage students and their stories through multiple methodologies and share diverse arts and cultural experiences and practices of artists.</p>

<p>3. <b>The Centrality of the Artist</b></p>	<p><b>Establish artists in schools' programs</b> to provide vital connections with the creative practices and approaches of professional artists for teachers and students.</p>
<p>4. <b>Strong Institutions</b></p>	<p><b>Strengthen arts education across early childhood, primary, secondary, and tertiary education to ensure continuity</b> across the school curriculum, across the arts curriculum and across arts education industry and institutions.</p> <p><b>Strengthen teacher education programs in the arts across the tertiary sector</b> to ensure high quality arts education and arts experiences in all schools.</p> <p><b>Provide resources to ensure delivery of a rigorous and balanced arts curriculum</b> that resources artists and educators at all levels and equally across all five arts disciplines.</p>
<p>5. <b>Reaching the Audience</b></p>	<p><b>Invest in arts education</b> to develop the audiences of tomorrow.</p> <p><b>Provide access to arts and cultural experiences appropriate for young people</b> and their development and learning.</p>