

National Cultural Policy Submission

Communication and Creative Arts at Deakin University

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

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:

Strong Institutions

Institutions are the bedrock of sustained arts and cultural development, the cradle from which practitioners and policy emerge. As such it is vital our institutions (and the work they do) are appropriately recognised and funded as enablers across all areas of creativity and development. Over the last few years it has become exactly clear how vital institutional infrastructure is for sustainable practice(s). This infrastructural conversation should necessarily be at the centre of cultural policy development and must include more than historical investment in bricks and mortar as testimony to success. The learnings over the last few years have amplified the agency of diverse human capital (over buildings) and the capacity of strong institutions to enable human capital is recognised as a vital/necessary aspect of cultural infrastructure. As we embark into the next decade, it is more pressing than ever to:

- enable equitable distribution of resources to diverse institutions (not to prioritise one discipline over another),
- that all disciplinary knowledge is cherished and furthered,
- the relative and disparate history(ies) of our collective culture is embraced, and the future of arts and cultural policy in Australia is all encompassing and not prone to historical privilege.

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:

Strong Institutions

We train the artists, curators, writers and cultural policy makers of the future. Our institutional learning is based on the history of our country (and forbears), the identified needs of the communities our students emerge from, and the extended arts and cultural industries we prepare the workforce for. It is vitally important we are engaged with policy development that responds to immediate and future need and are appropriately resourced to achieve this without the unnecessary threat of disciplinary survival. The institutional pillar is in many ways the result of the identified needs of the other four pillars – it responds via building capacity to realise the ambitions and desires of first nations people, individual artists, audience(s) and of course Story.