

# National Cultural Policy Submission

## **Tranby Aboriginal Co-operative Limited**

**Submitted:** 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:**

### **First Nations**

The challenge: Tranby Aboriginal Co-operative Ltd was incorporated as an Aboriginal owned co-operative in 1957. Tranby College was central to all the key events in mid to late 20th century Aboriginal history. Charles Perkins worked with Tranby during the time of the Freedom Rides in the mid 1960s, Faith Bandler held the celebration of the Yes vote in 1967 at Tranby, the NSW Teachers Federation helped raise funds from its members to support Tranby when Government cut funding in the 1970s. Tranby was instrumental in ensuring the Royal Commission of Aboriginal Deaths in Custody in the 1990s. Tranby struggles with ongoing funding problems. Tranby is well known amongst the First Nations peoples. Tranby works to raise awareness of First Nations cultures as part of the Australian identity to the wider non-Indigenous community. The opportunity is to financially and culturally support Tranby as a key place for informed discussion regarding the upcoming referendum. Tranby is looking to run referendum podcasts and online talks by key Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous speakers. Tranby requires funding to promote the program to the wider community and to pay for an upgrade to Tranby's in-house equipment to improve the quality of the broadcasts.

### **A Place for Every Story**

The Opportunity: Tranby is an Indigenous owned registered training organisation (IRTO) established in 1957, Tranby is Australia's oldest continuously operating independent Aboriginal education provider. Amongst a various other accredited courses Tranby runs 11026NAT Diploma of Applied Aboriginal Studies as well as non-accredited online courses.

In addition to Tranby being an IRTO, Tranby is a place for keeping, making, and sharing stories that commemorate and celebrate First Nations Cultures across Australia.

Tranby contributes to the Australian community by highlighting significant First Nations stories and histories.

Tranby's arts focus is on supporting First Nations writers and poets and supporting them and their work.

Tranby also holds nationally significant contemporaneous mid 20th Century documents that require careful preservation. Tranby holds central ongoing place in keeping, making, and sharing in the First Nations stories and history.

The Challenges are funding, preserving priceless parts of Australian history and art works and updating technology such as reliable wifi, modern computer and software and digitally scanning historical documents to protect them and to provide online access to researchers.

### **The Centrality of the Artist**

The opportunity is for Tranby to provide funding to support an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander "Writer in Residence" in 2023.

Tranby also hopes to develop a library where writers can do research and have access to the latest technology to support their work.

Tranby is currently running podcasts recording and broadcasting the stories of key members of the First Nations community in particular the stories of Elders and First Nations LGBTQI community.

Tranby has been "home" to many First Nations writers and actors, for example Kath Walker taught at Tranby in 1965 and more recently Tranby published Uncle Wes Marne's book of poetry in 2023 which sold out in weeks.

The challenge as always is funding to support Tranby and provide financial support for First Nations writers and poets so they can focus on their work.

### **Strong Institutions**

Opportunity – Tranby is already one of the highest profile Indigenous owned organisations in Australia with a national and international reputation for First Nations adult education. In addition Tranby has a crucial place in First Nations culture as a place for keeping, making, and sharing First Nations stories. .

Challenges – Tranby is under constant pressure to raise funds for all its programmes and to support First Nations communities. Tranby also needs financial assistance to preserve historical records that are crucial to the retention, research and acknowledgement of mid to late 20th century First Nations history.

### **Reaching the Audience**

Opportunity – Tranby has a strong brand and network to support First Nations writers and poets, but Tranby needs promote awareness in the Australian community to raise funds to support, promote and publish more First Nations writers and poets. Tranby was able to reach a national audience for Uncle Wes Marne’s book of poetry “Through Old Eyes” in celebration of his 100th birthday. Tranby arranged for publication and supported the distribution through major booksellers and a solid in person, social media, radio and TV marketing campaign. The first print sold out and Tranby has just arranged for the second print. Tranby can support writers and poets to reach a national audience.

Challenges – Tranby needs operational funds to pay a “Writer in Residence”, staffing and marketing costs and IT upgrades and to provide financial support to First Nations writers and poets to have the time and space to tell their stories.

**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**

The 5 pillars are important to Tranby due to the need to raise awareness of the centrality of First Nations cultures as part of the Australian identity. Tranby played and continues to play a pivotal role in First Nations history and aims to work on the broader stage to promote recognition and respect of First Nations culture through our support of writers and poets and through our programme of podcasts and broadcast discussions on the referendum.

### **A Place for Every Story**

The five pillars reflect the importance of Tranby in keeping with our programme of keeping, making, and sharing First Nations stories.

### **The Centrality of the Artist**

The five pillars acknowledges the Centrality of the Artist and the importance of providing First Nations writers and poets a culturally safe financially supportive environment with access to 21st century technology.

### **Strong Institutions**

Tranby is a culturally strong First Nations institution that needs to raise funds to be a financially strong institution. Tranby played a key role in Australian history and continues to be a significant force in First Nations culture. Tranby needs to raise awareness and funds to support its ongoing work as part of strengthening First Nations communities through adult education and support for First nations storytellers.

### **Reaching the Audience**

Tranby needs funds to support First Nations writers and poets. Funding is required to support and promote First Nations writers and poets by publishing their work. Tranby needs to upgrade equipment to run high quality podcasts and broadcasts promoting First Nations writers and poets.

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

First Nations institutions and artists need longer term sustainable reliable funding. The time, work and stress involved in the constant requirements for grant funding that is often for small amounts for short periods drains creativity and resources. Tranby has the physical and educational capacity to support a number of writers and poets and to podcast and broadcast key First Nations stories but needs the financial resources to do so.