

# National Cultural Policy Submission

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Submitted: As an artist

**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**

Living in Sydney I want to see videos made by First Nations people about remote and regional Australia. There needs to be more funding for CAAMA, ICTV and BRACS and the media stations in communities such as Walpiri Media PAWS in Yuendumu and Goolarri TV in Broome to support their training and ensure that their programming is more widely distributed to make the rest of Australia aware of the artistic talent in remote Australia.

## **The Centrality of the Artist**

Artists have a unique perspective on our country. They provide emotion to our stories. They imagine out past, present and future. As we said in the 70s, when fighting for Australian programs on tv and in the cinema, we need to hear our own stories, dream our own dreams. The same applies to all the arts and our First Nations and multicultural society. Satellite and digital technology enables this to happen but it has to be encouraged from the bottom up with funding

## **Strong Institutions**

Institutions provide stability but the last thing we want is bureaucratic structures. The institutions need to be staffed by practitioners on contracts who move in and out of employment in the arts. Not graduates from university courses with little or no current practical work history.

## **Reaching the Audience**

We have the satellite technology to enable audiences in every corner of Australia to be able to get access to experience artistic talent.

The London National Theatre and the New York Metropolitan Opera can do it so should we .

**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**

Since I retired, I have volunteered in remote First Nation communities teaching video. I know the potential, I have heard some of the stories. I also know the ignorance in the rest of Australia about these stories.

When I was a member of the Australian Broadcasting Tribunal in 1984 the government requested us to research the potential and effect of the soon to be launched domestic satellite. We recommended that the Northern Territory with nearly half the population First Nations people have its own TV station to produce local programs, employ local people. Alas the mandated commercial nature imposed on Imparja TV and the competition from the commercial station as the satellite footprint expanded has meant that this has now ceased.

Lack of government support has reduced Imparja TV to a virtual relayed commercial network station

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

I want to know and be exposed to the many stories of our very diverse population. Due to assimilation policies, both of First Nation's people and immigrants, the general population has little knowledge of, and therefore interest in, the different histories of our very diverse population.

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

The artists are the people who can expose our interest and stimulate our imagination in new ideas.. This can be done through funding and technology. Sport has successfully shown how the country can understand and be involved in many sports. The same funding for artists, their venues and sophisticated television coverage of performance and exhibition could grow our knowledge, appreciation and enthusiasm for the artist. Australia could become an artistic nation as well as a sporting nation!

### **Strong Institutions**

I experienced the growth of the Australian film and television industry in 70s. The powerful US industries saturated our cinemas and tv screens. They could sell their programs for a fifth of what it cost us to make. Australia had to invest in Australian made films and television

- a) through training,
- b) developing ideas
- c) investing in their production

Institutions were set up funded by governments and staffed by practitioners.

Over the years universities have set up media courses and funding institutions have become bureaucratized. Strong funding institutions need to be led by practitioners

### **Reaching the Audience**

Based on my experience (see above) I would recommend that the government invest in skilled production units in each state to cover artistic performances and the ABC make them available on i-view throughout the country.

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

Artists and their productions and artistic endeavours are essential to our country's growth and recognition. They need to be supported in education, in production, in performance spaces and in news and video coverage to share with the rest of the country. We need to aspire to have at least the same recognition as sport.!