

# National Cultural Policy Submission

## Woven Threads

Submitted:

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

As a worker/professional in an industry who uses arts (e.g. art therapist, tour guide)

As an artist

As an individual

## 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

Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders are central to our country and a part of its unique historical culture, their stories should be known by all Australians

It is important for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island children and adults to have their stories told and to see their stories told by their own people.

We support the Uluru Statement of the Heart and acknowledge that we have much to learn from First Nations people. We must create the opportunities to empower First Nations people to take their rightful place in our community. We will continue to create opportunities for First Nations people to share their stories so they can have power over their destiny and their children can flourish.

First Nation stories share their culture which are a gift to our country.

To help us see more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stories being shared we would like to see more investment to support these stories being developed and produced.

### A Place for Every Story

Story underpins everything in our lives and everything that we learn, we either hear it, read it, or watch it.

Australian is extremely multiculturally diverse and stories help to share the different cultural experiences of our communities, they help us to understand each other, they also help people understand people's situations that we may have no experience with. Stories can help us to have a sense of identity and belonging.

It is important that all Australians can see their own stories on all platforms We need to have strong government supports to contribute to the recording of these stories, for our cultural history.

### The Centrality of the Artist

Our stories express the many differing experiences of Australians, we work with a variety of creatives and technicians to bring this work to life. We need government institutions to support and invest in the recording of these stories so we can support the development of the creators and the mentorship of those to come.

### Strong Institutions

The Australian screen industry needs strong, stable and well-funded institutions to enable the sector to support the creation of Australian stories and support a diversity of stories and creators.

It is important to ensure that our screen agencies and institutions are fit for purpose to enable them to achieve the best outcomes for the sector.

Funding cuts to the ABC and SBS have had a detrimental effect on screen stories and the training of new entrants to the industry and more secure funding of them to deliver Australian stories for all audiences is a high priority.

Our institutions need to be led by diverse and robust boards drawn from industry. Our boards should represent creatives practitioners from across their respective areas of practice, and a balance must be struck to ensure these boards are representative of the creative industries they are part of.

Our specialist tertiary training institutions and programs should be funded and nurtured to ensure a skills pipeline towards sustainable jobs with fair wages.

## **Reaching the Audience**

We must have Australian stories on all our digital platforms, children and young people must have access to Australian content. This is how we discover our cultural history and identity.

**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**

It's extremely important that First Nations and Torres Strait Islanders see themselves represented positively within the community, on TV, Cinema, Online and within educational facilities.

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

Australia has its own unique stories that can be shared by exploring the richness of our culture and history. If we don't tell our own stories, what will young people identify with? How will they understand their own experiences and lives if they are never able to identify with the content they are surrounded by?

We share Australians experiences through creativity, Australian stories allow other Australians to relate to the content and through this work we contribute to behavioural and social change.

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

If we don't have government support to tell our own stories our creatives will be forced to work on content that doesn't preserve the history of our culture. The creation of our content is done by screen professionals who are often drawn to international work due to bigger budgets and better wages.

### **Strong Institutions**

The Australian screen industry needs strong, stable and well-funded institutions to enable the sector to support the creation of Australian stories and support a diversity of stories and creators.

If there was greater support for the institutions that help to create and support the telling of Australian stories, (ABC, SBS) and there funding was returned we would see more Australian stories being told.

## **Reaching the Audience**

We all want to see our own culture in the content we view. This is how we learn to identify ourselves and understand how we fit into our community. If we don't connect with the stories that we are hearing or watching, we can't find our place in world.

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

It's important to show our cultural identity and diversity as Australians. We need to reflect this diversity in the stories that we tell, these stories are irreplaceable and contribute so much to future and present generations.