

National Cultural Policy Submission

Name: John Kolm

You are welcome to make my submission public.

I am an expatriate Australian cartoonist and writer, winner of a Rothman's award for cartooning. I started my published career in the arts in 1986 as a cartoonist for Syme Magazines and Syme Newspapers and was published on national news stands for 16 years. I also began as a comedy writer for the same publications in 1988. I have illustrated numerous books and am also the author of my own best-selling book, *Crocodile Charlie and the Holy Grail*. I have also worked as a performer for 25 years doing corporate gigs.

Things that make it difficult to operate as an artist or arts business in Australia include:

- A greatly reduced number of outlets that will print cartoons or written work, which makes it harder for artists to get a foothold or to develop and grow.
- A cavalier attitude toward copyright, which means that a lot of artists' work is reproduced and used with no meaningful protections.
- A wide perception that artists' work should be free, just as the internet itself is free.
- An almost total lack of support of the type that is given to other arts, for example theater, film and "high" art.

There is not much the government can do to help me, because I've already had a successful career. I'm much more concerned about the current generation of artists and writers. For them I would like to see:

- An effort made by government to promote and support a cartooning and writing industry of the type that was made years ago for the Australian film industry and again for the wine industry. These industries did not become successful, nor did Australian talent get a chance to emerge and succeed, by magic. They were given substantive government help. We need the same thing for the iconic and uniquely Australian cartoon culture.
- Better protections from bulk-purchased overseas syndicated content that is cheaper and easier for publications than local content. If we have import tariffs to support other local industry, why not the art industry?
- Tax breaks of the type offered to the movie industry in particular, in order to encourage investment in local content.

Thank you

John Kolm

CEO

Team Results USA

