

# National Cultural Policy Submission

**Malcolm Moir**

Submitted: 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** Very important

**A Place for Every Story** Very important

**The Centrality of the Artist** Very important

**Strong Institutions** This pillar needs more unpacking as it is very broad and comes back whether art is for every day artist or for the careerist. I would like to see the cultural sector be imbedded in education and health, and its role in defence ceremony, and civic life be embraced.

**Reaching the Audience** Very important

**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**

Essential but I think we need to recognise that first nations culture is central to first nations life, it's about wellbeing, storytelling, history, family. It's not the same as a western view of art being a tangible collectable permanent thing. It's a completely different world view and is far most whole of government – it almost sits above all else not in alignment with it

**A Place for Every Story**

So important -I think of all we are in a better place with this than some others

**The Centrality of the Artist**

The artist is central but not necessarily for art sake. Or rather musicians and actors may not be artists but entertainers. The role of musicians in hospitals for example provides such sustenance to all around them and an income to musicians but it needs incentive and needs some heroes to embrace the possibility.

**Strong Institutions**

Not long ago these strong institutions were funded as peak institutions enabling them to train people for the sector – see ABC or Opera Australia. Budget cuts have meant these services have been reduced to al-most nothing – and not full employment just project work.

If you want to rebuild the sector these institutions must provide on the job training/apprenterships.

### **Reaching the Audience**

Vital to expose audiences as soon as possible and as often as possible. We are living in complex times and keep hearing lived stories of people's struggle being helped by a book, movie, music etc. The arts help make sense of the crazy world

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

I am delighted we are refreshing and reengineering the National Cultural Policy after so many years.

I would like the National Cultural Policy 2.0 to recognise our cultural policy is all around us, it's not just the big institutions, it's in our workplaces, homes, schools.

Its impact is far greater than cultural identity, it extends to mental and physical health, to other areas of wellbeing. The research is there with music education – it changes kids' lives. We need to see the arts funding on par with sport – may not be popular but it must happen. While the core may be housed in a department, it must have strong and responsive elements in most other departments – certainly education and health – and connect to the state arts bodies.

There is so much more value we can get out of the arts if only it was seen for the value society can get from it!