

National Cultural Policy Submission

Ross Stagg

Submitted: On behalf of an organisation with arts-components (e.g. community organisation, tourism, venue, health, education etc); 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 My first teaching work at TAFE was with Eora Nation Youth musicians at the Eora College. Koori musicians are blessed and cursed by the same digital functions needed to create music that all creative Australians must contend with. They are particularly well placed to knowledge share because they are part of a mob that is about internal support.

A Place for Every Story I notice that a famous song about Australia is now part of a major TV campaign for Colourbond – these opportunities are rare its weird where our stories can surface – those opportunities need to be researched and actioned in a proactive way – government can facilitate opportunities.

The Centrality of the Artist Music Artists must be allowed to operate as artists with their stories to tell without having to become internet marketing gurus piecing together campaigns for themselves. These artists must have that sort of work done for them by suitably qualified operatives funded by government.

Strong Institutions As a TAFE teacher of Music including songwriting and performance for many years I have watched with dismay as conservative governments have cut funding and introduced tragic compliance measures virtually designed to interrupt the teaching flow. Strong institutions like TAFE are under attack – it's said that TAFE will be trades only soon with zero cultural faculties – that cannot be allowed to happen. All institutions involving creative training must be protected and promoted. Conservatives attack strong institutions Labor governments must support, enable and venerate them.

Reaching the Audience A major part of reaching a music audience is to be able to work alone in the digital realm. For the first time the means of production are totally obtainable to individuals even with relatively modest means. Being able to work to the music market standard is the key challenge. Audiences expect first class production – the minimum required standard IS excellence. Casual mentoring supported by government is what is really required. Artists must be allowed to be artists but the technical know how sufficient to work at a commercially acceptable level is a major hurdle. People with high level artistic and technical skills must be readily available on an as needed timely basis to newer emerging artists in other words as trusted mentors at no cost to the artists. Funded mentors are key to the future development of Australia's songwriter / musician / performers.

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

An appreciation of the generality of humanity - Aussies are human kind we live in a multicultural nation – our stories are the stories of the world because of the heroes who have joined us from every corner of the world. A fair go – in other words decency – is a value Australians can be proud of.