

National Cultural Policy Submission

Anonymous

There has been a devastating impact on arts training in universities across Australia with many drama courses closing down and others being stripped of staff and expenditure. I can speak in detail about QUT where sessional staff fees have been dropped from the CATRE rate of \$143 to the CAAAR rate of just \$47. This is not seen in other areas of the university but prevalent in Drama, Acting and Technical Production where classes are considered workshops rather than tutorials. This convenient but utterly incorrect terminology does not account for the high level of expertise that these specialist teachers bring the work. There's a general disregard for arts training within so many universities with value placed on science and technology. Arts training is specialised and time consuming and therefore expensive. We need government support and advocacy to build arts training in establishments like QUT. QUT already boasts one of the most highly regarded technical production course in the country, an acting course that sits in the top 4 schools in Australia and a drama department that has trained the likes of Wesley Enoch. We need education support from our government and this must be considered as integral to the arts portfolio as these are our future leaders. We beg of you to build arts training in universities! Thank you and good luck!