

# National Cultural Policy Submission

**Dr Michael Furtado**

I am a retired Arts & Education academic with a specialisation in Cultural Theory and Culture Policy. My deep concern, as a resident of Queensland, has been the marginalisation of Ethnic Arts in this state, where aspects of the Arts continue to maintain a bias that is Eurocentric as well as pre-modern. This phenomenon is disproportionate to the cultural and demographic profile of Australia as a modern, multi-ethnic, multicultural society in which arts production and performance need to reflect a contemporary national identity that is diverse as well as fully representational and inclusive of the arts community. I am particularly alarmed by the state of arts policy discourse, which is still disproportionately Anglocentric and unrepresentative of the wider Australian community. I seek the development of guidelines that will challenge the arts policy and administrative status quo, especially in Queensland. By way of example of what I mean, last weekend Radio 4 MBS, which is an FM radio station based in Brisbane, broadcast an interview with a former Arts Minister and recent Australian High Commissioner to the UK in which he was given free rein to promote his 'cancel culture' views, all of them drawn from a litany of cultural warrior terminologies that serve neither literate nor useful purpose in informing a contemporary globally-recognised policy-literate arts policy. Thank you.