

**Submission:**

**Lauren Carroll Harris**

**Organisation:** [Prototype](#) moving image platform

**Contact details:** [REDACTED]

**I write as an independent writer and curator who is currently working in the artist-run sector and establishing a new arts company. My submission relates to the “centrality of the artist” and “strength of institutions” pillars.**

**A robust and sustainable National Cultural Policy should:**

1. Acknowledge that artists are essential workers;
2. Acknowledge that access to art and culture is a fundamental birthright;
3. Follow and support First Nations leadership in arts and culture and learn from First Nations understanding of the importance of arts and culture;
4. Restore and increase Australia Council funding with a focus on small to medium organisations and the direct funding of independent artists and writers, artist-run collectives and regional initiatives;

5. Make all public funding for arts and cultural projects contingent on fair pay;
6. Massively increase the number of fellowships offered to reflect the value and breadth of our working artists and writers, and pay them a living wage. [Ben Eltham and Allison Pennington's proposal for 300 Creative Fellowships](#) administered by Australia Council at the median wage should be considered as the lowest benchmark;
7. Invest in long-term ways to fund working artists and writers more sustainably, such as a Basic Income and public employment schemes;
9. Invest in arts and culture by employing working artists and writers throughout education, literacy and reading initiatives, public libraries, and health care settings. Establish and fund salaried residencies in schools, libraries and health care settings. A strong cultural policy will also move art and culture beyond its institutional niches and advance investment in arts and culture through other institutions including health and education, establishing and defending the public value of arts and culture from early childhood to tertiary institutions and through adult education opportunities, directly employing artists at every step.
10. Invest in Australian arts and culture by protecting the working conditions of artists and writers, regulating gig work, ending sham contracting, and creating fair access to superannuation, leave entitlements, collective bargaining, and dispute resolution;

11. Remove tax on prizes and grants, change superannuation and tax legislation to ensure working artists and writers are eligible for superannuation on all payments, and clarify our rights as workers in employment law.

12. Be made in the context of a Ministry of Culture. Media and communications are very different industries with different revenue streams and workflows than the arts and culture, so they deserve separation from the current mega ministry, in which the arts and cultural industries are regarded as a subset.