

# National Cultural Policy Submission

## **Decibel New Music Ensemble**

Submitted: On behalf of a not-for-profit arts organisation

**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**

Opportunity: Finding ways of working that go beyond tokenistic 'inclusion' and into methods of doing, encouraging self determination whilst growing collaborations.

Challenge: First Nations methods can be different from other approaches, requiring additional time, consideration and network building. How can we facilitate that given the limitations of current funding structures?

### **A Place for Every Story**

Opportunity: And every story a place

Challenge: How do we find space for experimentation – we need space and encouragement for innovation and experimentation, to enable our arts to be relevant, grow and flourish.

### **The Centrality of the Artist**

I believe the only true way to keep the artist central is to support them as an artist, not just as part of a project. An artist wage is the best way to do this, as other countries have demonstrated. This is an investment that will be rewarded.

### **Strong Institutions**

Opportunity: more multiyear funding for smaller independent organisations to assist them to plan into the future and support artists. Support arts training by reversing the funding increases in Universities, ensure major organisations fulfil expectations of diversity and local content. Private institutions (eg schools) have better facilities than local areas – how do we address this infrastructure support issue?

**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**

We have an opportunity to make Australian art that is enriched by our First Nations people: where possible we seek to consider First Nations perspectives in our programming and staffing.

### **A Place for Every Story**

We support abstraction – and we hope that the range of ways stories can be told, and hosted, can be broad – innovative art forms will see our arts grow and tell stories in new ways, reaching new audiences

**The Centrality of the Artist**

Our organisation goes project to project. Is there a way we can have financial security for our performers, and curator, without the heavy reporting obligations currently in place? Can there be more flexible models for organisations that are artist run?

**Strong Institutions**

How can large organisations support smaller ones? Can we provide incentives for collaboration? This way, smaller organisations can leverage the facilities of larger ones.

**Reaching the Audience**

Audiences love experimentation. They are smarter and more adventurous than they are generally given credit for. They are ready for change!

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

Clear support for innovation and experimentation in small and large organisations funded by government.