

# National Cultural Policy Submission Template

**Town of Port Hedland – Matt Dann Theatre & Cinema**

**Submitted:** On behalf of government or government body

**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**

Working in the Pilbara Region, there is extensive capacity for First Nations engagement.

However, within the Town of Port Hedland there is a greater focus on Visual Arts engagement and local music, but little engagement with the Performing Arts.

## **A Place for Every Story**

With the diversity of residents in Port Hedland, alongside the seasonal influx of RV travellers, we need to be able to provide a 'place for every story', to ensure we meet a wide audience demographic.

## **The Centrality of the Artist**

As a new arrival to the Pilbara, I am aware of the extensive visual arts engagement. However, there seems to be limited engagement, with new work development, outside of this area of artistic expression.

## **Strong Institutions**

The Town of Port Hedland is looking to develop and deliver a new Arts & Cultural Hub, in South Hedland.

This institution needs to be accessible to both Traditional Owners and other cultural groups.

It also needs to address the relationship of those who are not attending the theatre and why.

## **Reaching the Audience**

This links back to the previous point – we see a small percentage of the Town's population engage with the arts – how can we increase that? How do we identify what they want to see in the Arts forum.

**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 need to find a way to share both existing and emerging theatre for First Nations audiences and engagement with the wider community.

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

A strong National Cultural Policy will support expression across every medium and expand the scope of presentation locations capacity.

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

The artist's opinion is essential to quality development – both from an arts delivery perspective and from a venue enhancement/development perspective.

### **Strong Institutions**

This pillar crosses between point 3 and 5.

The institutions – both existing and under development (both new and renovated) - must be user friendly to both artists/practitioners/technicians and inviting and engageable to audiences/visitors/invited guests.

### **Reaching the Audience**

With the current theatre being located on Department of Education land, it is difficult to separate that from the cultural opportunities.

It is also limiting, as we are hamstrung by Term dates and times, which restricts programming for an audience that may be limited in capacity for time.

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

While the policy will have a National-focus, I feel it is essential to also differentiate the needs of the Urban/Suburban from the needs of the Regional/Rural localities. In particular, those that are the equivalent of a day's drive, or a cost-prohibitive/limiting flight.