

National Cultural Policy Submission

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Submitted: As an individual

Hello

It is vital that Australia has a strong cultural sense of self. Having just returned from Europe where the culture is embedded in every aspect of life, Australia feels lacklustre and pedestrian. There is little incentive to go out as the major cultural events are located in the city centres, are hard to get too and tickets are so expensive as are the restaurants.

One way to make writers/artists/dancers/musicians etc more accessible and to create work would be to encourage a more vibrant street scene in the high streets in appropriate suburbs, relax the rules for buskers, entertainers, small outdoor festivals and permanent outdoor dining on sidewalks, local parks and around surf clubs would assist in creating an more joyous community atmosphere that fosters creativity, and optimism.

The surf clubs that dot our coast are totally underutilised and these should be shared spaces – with a portion reserved for café's/bars that can have live music, shows etc. I live in Freshwater, and the surf club building that is on the beach remains vacant 80% of the time. It is a beautiful Spanish Mission style building that overlooks the beach and could be an amazing space for the community but it is cordoned off by the very possessive surf club who dominate these space but don't actually use it much apart from weekends in summer.

I would also love to see our writers and journalists encouraged to tell our stories and engage in public debate on significant cultural matters – they are willing but need to be paid a living wage! High school students could be taught the craft of writing – that would assist in all aspects of their life and would encourage greater respect for writers.

The ABC needs protection and funding for more journo's and Australian productions.

Thank you