

National Cultural Policy Submission

George Kemp

Submitted: On behalf of an arts peak body, On behalf of a for-profit arts business, As an artist

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

As a worker at Australian Theatre for Young People, we work in a variety of ways to promote First Nations stories. Through collaborations with organisations in regional and remote Australia, we run workshops, commission plays and also run teacher professional development programs on Teaching Aboriginal Theatre. Without funding, we are unable to run these programs to their full extent.

A Place for Every Story

Young peoples' stories are the life-blood of our arts industry. It is what involves and readies our future leaders in this sector. This is where we can truly explore "every story" by championing young diverse artists, inviting in young diverse audiences and training young and diverse leaders for the future of the industry. We need funding to do this.

The Centrality of the Artist

ATYP is focused on the artist in all its forms. Writers, directors, actors, educators, dramaturgs, the list goes on. We provide platforms for training, work, and opportunities for artists from all disciplines.

Strong Institutions

Australian Theatre for Young People is the oldest youth theatre company in the country. If that isn't a "strong institution" then I don't know what is. We have been through ups and downs before, but never gone through a period as fraught as this. This place is "home" for so many. From Rebel Wilson to the hundreds of students that come through our Workshops and Education programs a week. It is bold, energetic, warm and vibrant and we need help to continue to provide that home for our young people.

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

There must be more focus on youth arts. If we are to see a more robust, diverse and representative industry tomorrow, the money needs to be put into the training and investment in experience of young people. The future leaders and bold thinkers need a playpen to experiment. Youth arts companies provide that playground.