

National Cultural Policy Submission

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

Lack of support/funding for our REMMOTE/REGIONAL organisation to maintain continuity of our programs. First Nations participants have taken their own lives, died of neglect in hospital and languages have been lost. We have not had the funding to support precious on the ground initiative. We have First Nations trust, we have local First Nations team members, artists, we work with our remote aboriginal communities but need to fight white racist local government who perpetuate disrespect of our First Nations People and in one community driven the population from 60 people living on Country in their Community to 6.

A Place for Every Story

Lack of support/funding for our REMMOTE/REGIONAL organisation to maintain continuity of our programs. We compete with CITY BASED organisations who use out contacts, import arts workers from city and who do not have long term relationships with Communities and individuals

The Centrality of the Artist

LACK of funding to support, empower, employ. Engage our very talented artists who live and work in the Gascoyne

Strong Institutions

ALL CITY BASED. Lack of support for our situation based training model which has a demonstrated track record of training local people, career empowering local artists and building Gascoyne Regional Capacity as an arts sector.

Reaching the Audience

Lack of funding/oversubscribed funding rounds/lack of paid hours to prepare these funding submissions. Last minute funding timelines means we don't know if we have secured project funds until only three months (or less out).

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

VITAL – we build from Country, We build from Culture, Respect and Healing.

A Place for Every Story

Lack of support/funding for our REMMOTE/REGIONAL organisation to maintain continuity of our programs.

The Centrality of the Artist

VITAL – our artists are our resource, capture and amplify our stories.

Strong Institutions

Compete from funding and often secure funding while our organisation does not.

Reaching the Audience

We reach over 80% of our region's population, but could reach more, more often if supported. We build social capital, resilient connected communities, and have driven the arts agenda across our remote region.

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

WE NEED ANOTHER ZERO ADDED TO EVERY BUDGET LINE. (Operation 'Another Zero').

Continuity of FUNDING and support for remote/regional organisations who have a demonstrated track record of building social capital; resilient connected communities, who are driving the arts agenda across our remote region, while also building an arts industry unique to our region **are vital and warrant INVESTMENT.** Yet we are expected to work as volunteers.

Securing operational funding has been IMPOSSIBLE. We have existed on 'project funds' for 12 years.

The ARTS is a mechanism which remedies the negative effects of toxic media, social and physical isolation, and the global pandemic in mental diseases. Our Arts are underpinning economic growth in our region.

WE/The Arts sector needs to LEAD, not NEED. We are the solution to the crisis, yet we are not supported.

Remote/Regional Arts organisations are vital social infrastructure. All infrastructure warrants annual investment, upkeep, and upgrades. Yet there is little investment in remote/regional arts organisations.

People are dying, languages have been lost, our regional has the highest rate of male suicide in Australia, one of the lowest rates of digital literacy and the smallest population of any region in Australia, yet it is CITY BASED organisation which are funded to SERVICES our region! Our region HAS the Skills to deliver programs, events, and training within our region. We have the professional capacity to partner with and host the national and international arts sector. We are yet to be supported fiscally as a node that we are....

Apologies this submission is rushed, our organisation is horrendously underfunded. We support Regional Arts WA's submission and are a HUB in the Regional Arts Network.