

National Cultural Policy Submission

ATYP YABbie Representative (From Victoria)

Submitted: As an artist

1. 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

Our countries First Nations peoples have been telling their stories on this land for the longest amount of time in the world. That should be celebrated, it should be something we as a country can boost with pride with funding, opportunities in rural communities and accessible platforms for First Nations to spread their art.

A Place for Every Story

See "*Reaching the Audience*"

The Centrality of the Artist

See "*Strong Institutions*" to hear about how the youth of Australia need to feel supported as the future artists of the world.

Strong Institutions

We need more youth arts institutions. It's as simple as that. Every year more and more shut down and less and less young people are being exposed to the wonderful worlds of arts. Not every person will become a doctor or a policeman or a farmer or a lawyer. People have skills in artistic fields and yet never realise it because for their whole schooling life they've never been put in a warm, welcoming environment where they can express themselves and share, grow and enhance their skills. Creative kids need a creative outlet, and those creative outlets may even lead them to a creative career in which they belong, and that leads to happier years as an adult.

Reaching the Audience

We need more rural programs run to reach audiences all across our country, not just those who get to live in cities. We also need to see more representation of all kinds in the arts, we're making progress, but we need to keep and speed it up. This includes disability, LGBTQ+ and multicultural representational works being displayed to audiences across the country. The arts industry thrives on telling the stories that need to be told, and these stories are valid and important to tell.

2. 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

I don't know enough about the stories of the First Nations people, and I'm desperate to see these stories told through the means of the stage.

A Place for Every Story

I want to be able to watch people's stories from all walks of life expressed freely in art.

The Centrality of the Artist

As a young theatre maker, I need to feel empowered and supported in my career path, because if we didn't have artists, the world would simply not function. I need people to recognise this. I need the government and schooling systems to provide me and my peers the mental and financial support and aid that a lot of us need to create the art of the future.

Strong Institutions

The local production company in which my love for theatre grew in has never received ample support from the councils or surrounding bodies. In the end, we can't fund it anymore. Our theatre is now unsafe for use, we have nowhere to perform, and repairs are unlikely due to cost. So many young performers in my area will not get the same experience I had.

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

Speak to the artists of the future. The youth rising up in this industry.