



22 August 2022

## **Utp's submission to the new National Cultural Policy**

### **Who we are:**

Based in Western Sydney, Utp has been at the forefront of art and social change since 1979. Recognised internationally, Utp has a 44-year history of creating artistically distinctive work at the forefront of contemporary arts practice. We support artists to inspire and agitate.

Utp is leading a not so quiet revolution of contemporary arts that is locally responsive and internationally relevant. This looks like addressing current and past injustices that have manifest in the arts through programming, organisational processes and the make-up of our team.

Utp has played out much of its history on Darug land. We are guided by the First Nations people of this land in order to re-write the Australian narrative together. We undertake this writing with all the communities who have settled here in Western Sydney.

### **Recommendations:**

We want to diversify the pool of stories the nation has access to. This can be achieved by:

- Prioritising Western Sydney – the most culturally diverse region in Australia. This looks like acknowledging that NSW has two 'regions' - the East and the West. Both must be funded equally. This may mean more money for NSW compared to other states. At present there are 44 arts organisations in Western Sydney (Western Sydney Arts Alliance). Many will not survive beyond the next Australia Council multi-year funding round without increased funding to the region.
- Minimum standards for Australian content on video streaming services such as Netflix.
- Increased training for First Nations, culturally and linguistically diverse and those living with disability to move into leadership (curatorial, creative producer, artistic director) roles. This could look like increased funding for Australia Council-led targeted professional development programs.

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