

**David Forrest**

### **National Cultural Policy Submission**

The pillars provide a good foundation for building a national cultural policy. It is essential that the policy does not stop with its foundations and has the opportunity to grow and develop over time.

It is important that these foundations build on the work of previous Labor cultural policies that have been a guiding light. We have much to learn and apply from these documents – it is vital that we take these learnings and positive experience and reconsider the possibilities. We must only look back in order to progress ahead. The previous policies provided a guide to looking forward and capturing possibilities and we cannot lose sight of this.

A cultural policy has the capacity to capture so much of what it is for us to be Australian. It has the potential for us to connect across disciplines, sectors, portfolios and government ministries (at all levels). We must continue to explore and resource the possibilities while enabling the potential directions.

On the pillars:

#### First Nations

Considering issues around First Nations are essential and a part of everything we do. The issues, concerns and thinking must guide our future directions.

#### A Place for Every Story

We are an old country built on stories. We must safeguard and treasure these in whatever ways we can from building our archives and libraries through to supporting our artists (across genres) to convey, celebrate and present our stories in their many manifestations. We must guide and educate the present and future generations of story tellers.

#### Centrality of the Artist

The artist as an individual and/or a member of an ensemble or group is central to our broad culture and future. The artist needs to be trained and educated through their formative development.

The artist is often the expression of an art form - whether an established discipline or an emerging form. These must be supported, enhanced and guided to the future.

#### Strong Institutions

Institutions are essential to our culture and development. The institutions must not just be temples of culture but living ecosystems that support and enhance our future. They can only move forward if they are appropriately resourced.

#### Reaching the Audience

We are all members of an audience that needs to be supported and facilitated through education.