

SUBMISSION ON NATIONAL CULTURAL POLICY

Dorothy Krishnan

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to have a say on our National Cultural Policy.

Since I am a migrant myself, I can relate to new migrants. It was not easy for me as I stepped into a foreign soil, leaving behind everything that I know and love especially my daughter, family and friends.

To me culture means something that you do on a daily basis with your family and friends. When I came to Australia, I did not get to live like others. Instead it was the opposite for me. My money, reputation and joy was ripped from me and I was left to myself and continuously threatened to be sent back if I don't do what I was told by my Perpetrator.

After putting up for a few years, the Department of Domestic Violence took me out to save my life. I was put away in shelters. My book explains the rest.

I have written a book called ***An Uncomfortable Journey*** and it is yet to be published as I have some challenges around finances to see my book get published.

It will be my contribution to all Australians.

The violence done to me was not just physical. It was a violence done to my family, culture and beliefs as well.

I come forward to share my experiences with those lacking the confidence to voice out or make that first call. It was hard for me and I can understand that it is usually not easy to make that first call because everything else is going to be even worse.

Currently I am a Presenter at Alive 90.5FM, a community radio station in Baulkham Hills. My show is called Be-U. As, Be Yourself. I interview people and write stories. My show is about encouraging someone out there using many real life stories.

You may tune in on Wednesday mornings. Currently is 10.00am-12noon. They may change over the next 2 weeks and it will be moved to 11.00am-1pm instead.

These are my views on the five pillars:-

I would like to be a voice to the First Nations People. I would like to talk to them and bring their concerns and stories to life, building a bridge once again with the people where trust can be manifested. It takes time to build confidence in someone and hence, we can start talking and writing down stories which may be a big step for some of them.

These stories are very crucial as they are the very heartbeat of an existing problem.

I would also place my story in there for people to read and make decisions. Stories are very life changing as they all start with a problem first and a good ending reflecting the diversity of our stories.

My daughter is a great Influencer. Not knowing what else to do especially after I left to Australia, she would sit in a room and play with her make- up, apart from going to a full time job during the day.

Today, after 8 years, she has earned a name for herself and big brands look to her to get reviews done and lately appointed her as one of the panel of judges for an influential cosmetic company.

We need to strengthen and support our next generation to move forward as artists and celebrating their role as creators of culture.

We need the support of our strong institutions to provide strong and lasting support across all spectrums which sustains arts and culture.

Authors and upcoming authors are at the heart of our national culture but are struggling to make a basic living.

The literature sector needs Government support to reach its full potential and to nurture the talent of the future. There is an exciting opportunity to introduce policy settings to support authors' work, invest in the creative economy and enjoy the cultural, social, educational, health and economic dividends that follow.

Policies to be included:-

1. A platform for migrants to speak out.
2. Bringing justice to the victims of domestic violence.
3. A platform to include all upcoming creative arts individuals into the platform of the already existing ones.
4. A safe place for story- telling.
5. Financial assistance in making authors make a difference in the lives of locals and those abroad.

With everything said, I believe I can make a huge difference in reaching the audience through my radio show and book. Building confidence as well as ensuring that their stories reach the right people at home and abroad.

Touching lives one at a time and making a perpetual change in the coming future is my goal.

First Nations and Stories will not only be my priority. It's my passion to drive hope once again against all odds to those that have lost hope.

I hope my daughter and I will be given a chance to make a difference in the lives of all Australians.

I give permission for my submission to be made public and published on the Office for the Arts website.

Yours Sincerely,

Dorothy Krishnan
Public Relation Consultant
GEON Consultants
Member of Australian Society of Authors