

# National Cultural Policy Submission Template

**Naomi Evans**

**Submitting:** As an individual

**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:**

## **A Place for Every Story**

As a curator with two decades experience spanning private galleries and public institutions, I am not alone in observing that to overturn the privilege currently entrenched within the arts sector, and to provide a welcoming and vibrant community of makers and thinkers, we need to reconsider the extremely low payments—and frequently non-existent payments—that artists and workers receive for their labour. People without 'other means of support' cannot and do not last in this industry. Those of us lucky enough to find salaried jobs in an increasingly casualised workforce, time and again, see exemplary and experienced talents as well as promising young people leaving the industry because they cannot sustain themselves, let alone any dependents (children, parents, partners) from their low arts wages. In the industry, we see and hear this story repeated, all the time. It is talked among us at work and privately, across regional to metro centres. We need artists, curators, writers - all workers in and supporting the creative industries - to represent the widest possible range of human experience that reflects our culturally, linguistically and socio-economically diverse continent. I urge you to consider a basic minimum income for artists and the creative industries.

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

A basic universal income for artists and the creative industries