

# National Cultural Policy Submission

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## Some urgent thoughts on a National Cultural Policy

I would like to add my strong support for a national arts policy that values the 'creation' part of the creative arts, and adequately supports artists and creative arts programs for the fundamental role they contribute to our Australian ways of living and understanding how we live. How they reflect our ability to feel, imagine and experience ourselves as larger - more hopeful perhaps - than we have let ourselves become. The funding cuts over many years - under both Liberal and Labor governments - have made our world and lives smaller both economically but also in spirit. They have eroded the living standards of creatives, the existence of independent community arts organisations and more devastatingly our ability to make art that isn't constrained by the exigencies of a ruthlessly consumerist market where even cookbooks are no longer allowed to subsidise poetry. A national arts policy with vision beyond the constraints of industry or the market – that supports readers and writers, for example with funding for libraries and a basic living wage for artists as a first step – is necessary to enlarge our vision as a society and people.