



Art OutWest National Cultural Policy Submission

Submitting as

1. Not for Profit arts organisation
2. On behalf of an org with arts -components (Community org, education, tourism etc)

About Arts OutWest

Arts OutWest provides regional arts development for the NSW Central West. We are a regional, not for profit organisation and we are part of a statewide network of 14 regional arts development organisations (RADOs). We work with artists and organisations across 12 Local Government Areas: Bathurst regional Council, Blayney Shire Council, Cabonne Council, Cowra Shire Council, Forbes Shire Council, Lachlan Shire Council, Lithgow City Council, Mid-Western Regional Council, Oberon Council, Orange City Council, Parkes Shire Council and Weddin Shire Council.

Our mission is to promote, facilitate, educate and advocate for arts and cultural development for the communities of the NSW Central West.

We work in a region that has an exciting arts and cultural sector which contributes to the sense of regional identity and a strong creative economy.

We recognise the importance of a National Cultural Policy and believe the Cultural Policy needs to be supported by appropriate levels of investment from all levels of government as well as the private sector.

We believe that the National Cultural Plan should embrace education, community organisations, and acknowledge the institutions run by Local Government that are often the only professional arts/creative support programs in smaller towns and communities.

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Arts OutWest is the regional arts and cultural development service for the Central West of NSW covering the local government areas of:

Bathurst Region
Blayney
Cabonne
Cowra
Forbes
Lachlan
Lithgow City
Mid-Western Region
Oberon
Orange City
Parkes
Weddin

Arts OutWest operates as a non-profit incorporated association and is an affiliate of Regional Arts NSW.

Arts OutWest's program of services is supported by:
The NSW State Government through Create NSW;
12 Local Governments of the Central West;
Charles Sturt University.

Arts OutWest's services to the community are also provided with the active assistance and cooperation of local and regional media.

Supported by



Australian Government



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):

1. First Nations

We support the submission from Aboriginal Regional Arts Alliance. (ARAA). OutWest supports the protection of traditional knowledge and cultural expression. Arts OutWest has a strategic focus on Aboriginal Arts and supports thriving and self-determined leadership in this area. We also believe there is a need for training and mentorship opportunities to ensure ongoing and lasting development of creative practice.

2. A place for every story: reflecting the diversity of our stories and the contribution of all Australians as the creators of culture.

We support and endorse 'a place for every story' and believe that regional stories should be valued and supported as well as those that come from the metropolitan stages. Often, regional touring has been from the cities into the regions. It is time that regional and metropolitan audiences hear from artists in the regions. During Covid-19 the importance of this was highlighted as cities became locked down. Regional people must also be included on selection panels and in the discussion about regional touring at all levels.

Regional artists must be recognised as professionals, whose work is valued and supported.

Investment is also needed in internet and digital technologies to connect and ensure all Australians, wherever they are, can truly create and contribute.

The voice of young people must also be heard, as they also have a story to tell. The demise of arts education and training at schools and tertiary level must be addressed. Young people must be provided an opportunity to tell their stories and create our cultural futures with the support they need.

3. The Centrality of the Artist

The work of all artists and associated arts workers, such as technicians, should be recognised by government at all levels. The effect of locking artists out of support during Covid-19 will have long term effects as workers, who are often sole traders, have left the industry for mental health and financial reasons, this is impacting theatres and arts centres



in regional NSW as it is in cities. This effects the success of our future art making and story-telling.

Arts OutWest supports the conversation around industry standards and financial support for artists at all stages of their careers.

4. Strong institutions: providing support across the spectrum of institutions which sustain our arts and culture.

Arts OutWest supports a strong arts ecology at all levels.

The National Cultural Policy should recognise the Local Government contribution to the arts, through their financial investment in infrastructure, artists, arts workers and programs. These are also often community hubs, which support social cohesion. Financial investment to support programs as well as capitol costs are needed to support the work of Local government.

Multi-year funding is required to develop work and strong resilient companies. Investment with longer term structures is needed to develop and program work.

Universities' arts courses in the regions have been cut and this needs to be addressed to ensure the future of our next generation of culture makers. Art making infrastructure exists on campuses with few students. Communities are looking for facilities. Incentives to develop partnerships could change this.

Arts OutWest supports the importance of service organisations across the sector; as advocates & supporters for artists and arts organisations these institutions have knowledge and expertise which sustains, educates and builds a strong sector. Appropriate funding for these institutions must be addressed.

5. Reaching the Audience

Arts OutWest believes the arts are for all, whether in metropolitan cities or in rural Australia. Opportunities to experience high quality, professional art, in all forms, should be available.

In many cases young people first experience art in schools. Over some time, arts education programs have been cut, and yet the benefits of arts programs have been proven to enhance wellbeing and social cohesion in communities. These programs develop audiences, as well



as emerging artists and should be reviewed to ensure the long-term development of successful arts programs and opportunities at all levels.

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