



**National Cultural Policy**  
*Submission*

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**1. Yes:**

We agree with this submission being made publicly available on [www.culture.arts.gov.au](http://www.culture.arts.gov.au).

**2. About:**

The Culture Concept Circle has a commitment to helping grow the social and cultural capital of Australian society. We support the creative ethos by expanding knowledge of historical art, design, music and style, past present and future. We support cultural development by promoting the continuing evolution of a sustainable, creative society, of those raising positive voices to protect, preserve and strengthen policies and practices within our communities, as well as those providing a benefit to marginalized sections of society. We want to help nurture those imagining the future.

**3. What are your views about each of the four goals?**

GOAL 1: To ensure that what the Government supports — and how this support is provided — reflects the diversity of a 21st century Australia, and protects and supports Indigenous culture

GOAL 2: To encourage the use of emerging technologies and new ideas that support the development of new artworks and the creative industries, and that enable more people to access and participate in arts and culture

GOAL 3: To support excellence and world-class endeavour, and strengthen the role that the arts\* play in telling Australian stories both here and overseas

GOAL 4: To increase and strengthen the capacity of the arts\* to contribute to our society and economy

Three of these four goals refer to the arts and creative industries, leaving out other industries including the sciences and technology, which are providing important contributions to our cultural and social development.

Culture in its fullest sense is about so much more than what these four goals embrace. A fifth goal might be added if we are to grow the social and cultural capital of Australia.

**GOAL 5: To encourage communication and intercultural conversations that help contemporary Australians better understand the nature of cultural difference; growing an appreciation and respect for the positive benefits of Australia's multi-cultural policy, and by learning how to better deal with difference, with each other, and the things that hurt**

We will be unable to operate within a global society without at first defining the nature of our culture so that it can have the best chance possible to develop its intercultural communication skills to create, co-operate and collaborate with others effectively.

To be considered a successful culture we must be aware of how important are the practical things – how we meet and greet each other, conduct ourselves in regard and respect for those around us, through the every day rituals we perform and by displaying our manners and etiquette. Culture in the twenty first century is about how we make love and war, maintain bodily health, mental strength and inner wellbeing. It is also about behaviours and beliefs, our moral and social mores.

It relies on each and every one of us to promote the emergence of new ideas, to encourage the raising of positive voice and to provide a practical benefit for marginalised sections of our society. We must talk about the things that hurt.

All people, regardless of race, ethnicity and creed, who live in Australia from the 21<sup>st</sup> century onward will need to pull together as one, if we are to define and shape the continuing development of our nation and its multi cultural concepts. We cannot do that without respect for each other's stories.

Currently Australians are involved in many great endeavours around the world. An active policy that encourages their participation, providing practical information and valuable feedback from their cultural interaction should be put in place. This way they can actively contribute to helping sustain our society and culture in the future.

Daring to imagine and plan for what it might be possible to accomplish has been made possible through the significant achievements of our ancestors. In historical terms it is the stories of Australia's indigenous people that are told first and that is, and should remain a priority.

However we also need to close divisive gaps that exist between the diverse groups of peoples now integral to our population, so that they do not feel, or believe, that they are on the outside looking in. We need to be inclusive and show respect and regard for each other.

We also need contemporary leaders to come together and offer our growing global multi cultural society new options, new policies, other ways of doing things and, considered choices. Most importantly leaders need to empower all our communities to transform themselves. Then it will become empowerment of, by and for the people.

Good citizens who believe they are consulted will help keep our cities safe, our communities thriving and our country and its established democratic freedoms and culture, both active and alive.

#### **4. What Strategies do you think we could use to achieve each of the 'four' goals?**

To become the kind of policy the twenty first century needs the National Cultural Policy will need to

1. Define what the word Culture means in 21<sup>st</sup> Century Australia.
2. Explain WHY we need a Cultural Policy to Australian citizens
3. Establish core principles including autonomy, universalism, humanism and philosophy, as well as ways of addressing in practical terms, the concerns and considerations of society, its ethnicity and political scene
4. Provide policy and procedures that are practically possible to achieve
5. Collaborate with local, state and national community groups, both religious and others to have them converse and contribute by holding talks and discussions about the very real changes society will have to make if we are to have a sustainable society in the future

6. Communicate constantly with each other, and everyone else, by discussing the nature of relationships, expectations of status, gender issues, providing access to knowledge and information for everyone
7. Shape a set of aims and ideals that have respect for, and an appreciation of, the foundations, possibilities and frailties of human nature
8. Invite leaders in industry, science, technology as well as heads of communities and corporations involved in creative and cultural pursuits to provide feedback
9. Create a climate and method that will see local, state and national communities actively involved in communicating with each other and government representatives that result in action
10. Secure candidates for a small core apolitical group who, in dialogue with the government will put the National Cultural Policy in place. A ballot between members of the group should appoint the leader of the group. If they do then they will believe they have the right person for the job.

#### The National Cultural Policy would

- Respect new ways of thinking
- Acknowledge social and creative innovation
- Work out new ways to fulfil aims and ideals and make policies work
- Consider how to practically establish an ethos of collaboration, co-operation and communication so that theory and practice is aligned
- Encourage those who have a genuine interest in ideas
- Have communities talk about and discuss the changes that our society will have to make in order to conserve energy and our planets natural environment, so that we can improve sustainability at local, state and national levels
- Have politicians and public service representatives put forward practical ideas for efficiencies they will make to contribute, aid and improve their own sustainability
- Seek to change or improve entrenched institutional attitudes: example unions calling their members 'working class' – an outmoded terminology of a class structured society. In 2011 in Australia we are all 'workers' who contribute to the country, its economy and future

#### **5. How can you, your organisation or sector contribute to the goals and strategies of the National Cultural Policy?**

We are only a small business and as such do not have capital or funds to contribute, only time.