

Queensland Government Submission to the Productivity Commission Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Visual Arts and Crafts - Draft Report

Acknowledgment

The Queensland Government respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of this land. We extend our respect to Elders past and present, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, of First Peoples of this country.

We acknowledge the continuation of diverse cultural practices and knowledge systems of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

We acknowledge that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander self-determination is a human right enshrined in the United Nations Declaration on the Right of Indigenous peoples. The *Queensland Human Rights Act 2019* also recognises the particular significance of the right to self-determination of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Introduction

The Queensland Government is committed to strengthening First Nations voices and enabling a First Nations-first approach to growing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts and acknowledges that to support community and sector led-led growth ambition, a wholistic and systemic approach with First Nations peoples at the centre is required.

First Nations voices and leadership in the arts and cultural sector, and within government settings, are crucial to the advancement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts industries including respectful and ethical use of intellectual and cultural properties.

The Queensland Government acknowledges the First Nations arts sector is under strain, with increasing demand from growing markets for its products and services, coupled with an ongoing need to support and develop sector capability and capacity.

The Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games (Brisbane 2032) provides a once in a generation opportunity for First Nations peoples to realise social and economic outcomes through arts and cultural products, activities, and experiences, and create significant legacy benefits for Queensland's arts and cultural sector. There is a crucial need for attention and action now to ensure First Nations arts and cultural practices are protected from appropriation and that the First Nations arts and cultural sector and communities can determine best approaches to take up Brisbane 2032 opportunities.

The Queensland Government is committed to a reframed relationship with Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples that acknowledges, embraces, and celebrates the humanity of First Nations. To achieve a reframed relationship, significant progress has been made in Queensland in relation to truth telling, the Path to Treaty, an Indigenous Voice and supporting Local Thriving Communities (LTC).

A First Nations Consultative Committee (the Committee) has been established for 12 months to lead codesign across the State to develop and refine Queensland's preferred Indigenous Voice model. The Committee will consider a range of voice options, including the establishment of a state-wide representative voice body. The Committee's work will also inform Queensland's input to the national Indigenous voice reform, noting the Australian Government's commitment to constitutionally enshrine a Voice to Parliament.

In addition to progressing Indigenous Voice, the Queensland Government is progressing the Path to Treaty as part of the Queensland Government's commitment to reframe the relationship with First Nations peoples. On 16 August 2022, Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk announced the Queensland Government's next steps on the Path to Treaty, including the key structures to be established in legislation – a First Nations Treaty Institute and a Truth and Healing Inquiry. The legislation supporting these structures will be co-designed with an Independent Interim Body, made up of Aboriginal peoples, Torres Strait Islander people and non-Indigenous Queenslanders. Further information about the Path to Treaty in Queensland can be found at www.qld.gov.au/treaty.

The Queensland Government's commitment to Treaty and Truth-telling is supported by the Path to Treaty fund announced as part of the 2021-22 State Budget to support treaty-related actions.

The LTC reform presents an opportunity for the Queensland Government to build on local leadership in First Nations communities to establish Local Decision-Making Bodies (LDMBs) and determine how best to engage in co-design with government. LTC is the Queensland Government's commitment to structural, service delivery and economic reform to ensure investment makes community stronger and maximises

opportunities for local service and industry partnerships. This approach is consistent with the Statement of Commitment which prioritises locally led decision-making, self-determination, and a strengths-based approach to working *with* and not *to* Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

In progressing the Path to Treaty, the Queensland Government is committed to working with the arts and cultural sector and wider communities to increase understanding of ethical considerations and practices necessary for engaging with First Nations arts, cultures, communities, and their cultural materials.

Queensland's *Many Voices: Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Languages Policy* (Queensland Languages Policy) was launched in 2020. The codesigned Queensland Languages Policy aligns with the language goals of the United Nations: the right to preserve, revitalise and promote Indigenous languages, and is being implemented via the *Many Voices: Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Languages Policy Action Plan 2020–22*^[2]. This action plan, and future plans, are underpinned by the principles of self-determination, recognition of diversity, truth telling and healing, and urgency and action. The Queensland Languages Policy and connected action plans will assist the Queensland government to meet its commitments under the National Agreement on Closing the Gap, particularly target 16: by 2031, *there is a sustained increase in the number and strength of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages being spoken*.

Arts Queensland, within the Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy's key priority against target 16 (KP16.04) is to assist First Nations art industries to *grow and develop, while maintaining ethical and sustainable production lines*. Strengthening the First Nations visual arts and craft sector in Queensland is crucial to support artists' and communities' wellbeing, cultural identities and practices including language and ensuring economic participation and growth so that First Nations practitioners receive a much greater share of the multi-million dollar First Nations arts and craft industry.

The Department of Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships (the department) is currently leading the development of a new Economic Strategy to provide a strategic, long-term framework. This Strategy will practically reframe the economic relationship with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, communities and businesses, improve economic empowerment and self-determination, and grow opportunities and outcomes.

The First Nations Arts and Cultures Panel, established in 2021 as part of Queensland Government's *Creative Together 2020 – 2030: A 10-year Roadmap for arts, culture and creativity in Queensland* (Creative Together) is supporting Queensland Government in amplifying the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the future of arts, culture and creativity in Queensland, with a focus on meaningful representation and engagement. The Panel members possess a breadth and depth of experience, including First Nations visual and performing arts, cultural tourism, First Nations media and intellectual property rights. One member is the Chair of the Indigenous Art Code, and the Panel has been instrumental in informing Queensland Government's position within this submission.

In addition, the Panel and Arts Queensland have codesigned a Cultural Engagement Framework - Working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts and cultures in Queensland.

<https://www.arts.qld.gov.au/projects-and-initiatives/first-nations-arts-and-cultures-panel/cef>

This Framework aims to inform and guide respectful engagement with First Nations peoples, organisations, and communities with the objectives to:

- increase understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, cultures, and protocols
- improve cultural safety for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples working in the arts and cultural sector including government owned arts organisations and venues
- position arts and culture as a platform for enabling and supporting the Path to Treaty
- ensure that First Nations arts and cultural practitioners, communities and cultural materials are ethically and respectfully engaged
- support achievement of the Creative Together vision for a State renewed and transformed through arts, culture, and creativity.

The Framework's principles of Culture and Country, Leadership, Collaboration, Self Determination, Accountability and Authenticity, drive Queensland Government funding and policy for the arts and cultures of First Nations peoples in Queensland. Accordingly, this submission applies these principles in providing a Queensland Government response to the issues and recommendations raised in the Productivity Commission's draft report on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Visual Arts and Crafts (draft report), highlighting issues across the following areas:

- coordinated national approaches to strengthening legislation to protect the Intellectual and Cultural Property Rights of First Nations peoples, cultures, and communities
- locally led decision making, investment and development of the First Nations visual arts and craft sector
- addressing the culturally relevant business support and development needs of First Nations creative businesses
- the connection between arts, cultural expression, and treaty development.

Background

In making this submission, the Queensland Government acknowledges the scope of the Productivity Commission's inquiry into the value, nature, and structure of the markets for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts and crafts and the objective to address deficiencies in these markets.

This submission builds on previous submissions to the Australian Government regarding First Nations visual arts and crafts, and cultural and intellectual property including:

- the 2018 House of Representatives Standing Committee on Indigenous Affairs' Inquiry into the growing presence of inauthentic Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 'style' art and craft products and merchandise for sale across Australia,
- the 2019 House of Representatives Standing Committee on Environment and Communications' Competition and Consumer Amendment (Prevention of Exploitation of Indigenous Cultural Expressions) Bill 2019, and
- the 2021 Productivity Commission Study: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Visual Arts and Crafts – Discussion Paper (Arts Queensland submission).

These submissions highlighted Queensland Indigenous Arts Centres' (IACs) perceptions that 'fake' art has a significant negative impact on artists' incomes, and several other issues for the First Nations arts and cultural sector and First Nations communities in Queensland including the need for:

- adequate protection for Aboriginal peoples' and Torres Strait Islander peoples' tangible and intangible heritage and cultural expression through art and associated products and experiences
- protection for artists and consumers against inauthentic products and unethical trade
- a coordinated, multi-faceted approach, involving Commonwealth and State initiatives to better address issue of unethical production and distribution and strengthen the supply of high-quality work by First Nations artists, ensuring economic benefit to artists and communities.

Through the review of Queensland Cultural Heritage Acts, the definition for 'intangible cultural heritage' is also being considered as to how it can be clarified and bolstered, so that intangible cultural heritage can be better managed and protected in Queensland.

In 2020, the Queensland Government released *Creative Together* (ref: <https://www.arts.qld.gov.au/creative-together>), which has the key priority to *Elevate First Nations arts* to ensure:

- First Nations arts and cultures strategies and investment are led by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander practitioners are employed in arts, culture, and creativity at all sector levels.
- Queensland is home to strong and sustainable creative businesses owned and led by First Nations people.
- Queensland is internationally known for its ethical distribution of First Nations arts.
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts and culture is prominent, appreciated, and valued, influencing State and national policy across a range of delivery areas.

The next delivery stage of the Creative Together roadmap, *Grow 2022-2026*, a four-year action plan, was launched in August 2022 and includes a range of actions designed to deliver elevated First Nations arts outcomes. These actions, informed by consultation with the sector, will shape and extend the Queensland Government's support of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander visual arts and crafts and complement national approaches to strengthening ethical production and distribution of First Nations visual arts and crafts.

Grow 2022-2026 consultation insights and Queensland response

In its support of First Nations visual arts and crafts in Queensland, and to address the impact of inauthentic products and cultural appropriation, the Queensland Government recognises the sector requires principled business development strategies to ensure the sustainability of the sector. Through its work with the First Nations arts sector, the Queensland Government is prioritising the livelihood and careers of First Nations artists through on the ground support to grow the capability and capacity of those who work in the First Nations visual arts and crafts sector.

Arts Queensland's consultation with the First Nations arts sector to inform the development *Grow 2022-2026* highlighted the following needs and issues:

- Localised and tailored approaches to IAC funding is required, to respond to the breadth of community needs, local priorities, and ambitions

- Need for succession planning that supports employment and training of local workers, e.g. school to industry pathways
- Appropriate governance development in and around IACs (for non-Indigenous and First Nations stakeholders) is needed to ensure strong leadership, transparency, and ethical practice
- Independent artists and collectives, i.e. not connected to or working with an IAC require support and representation to grow their practice and their business
- There is an ongoing need for First Nations artists' communities to access First Nations teaching artists to support creative development and skills development
- Jobs and career pathways for First Nations arts managers and practitioners need to be illuminated and supported
- Partnerships that support cultural exchange, professional development, and the profiling of the work of First Nations artists in Queensland are crucial to sector growth
- Support is required for First Nations practitioners and organisations develop and present new work, extend their careers and markets
- Brisbane 2032 provide an important opportunity to strengthen the ethical supply and distribution pipeline for First Nations arts, and immediate support for First Nations arts practitioners' career opportunities from now to beyond 2032.

In response to these themes as they relate to First Nations visual arts and crafts in Queensland, the Queensland Government's Local Thriving Communities (LTC) approach is being applied, which uses the principles of co-design and local decision making. Initiatives being delivered over the next four-years include:

- localised and co-designed approaches that enable First Nations arts and cultural practitioners and organisations to strengthen creative business and community inclusion in arts engagement
- supporting local communities to realise their ambition to leverage potential cultural tourism, economic participation, and arts practice development to ensure First Nations communities benefit from Brisbane 2032
- working with community leaders including community-determined local decision-making bodies, established as part of the LTC reform, to co-design government responses, ensuring strategies to support First Nations visual arts and crafts meet community aspirations and need
- supporting focused employment and career development initiatives for First Nations practitioners
- strengthening business skills and capacity across First Nations arts and cultural organisations
- leading coordination across all levels of government in streamlining funding models to benefit First Nations artists and organisations
- supporting opportunities to expand new markets for the work of First Nations artists

Related actions will foster partnerships, exchange and collaborations that strengthen culture and country, and work with local decision-making bodies and processes in response to distinct community needs. For example, new resources delivered through a partnership approach with communities have enabled an expansion of the funded IAC network in Queensland to include Coen Art Centre and the Ration Shed Museum in Cherbourg.

Investment in the First Nations arts and cultural sector

The funded First Nations visual arts and crafts sector in Queensland is relatively young, with the Backing Indigenous Arts (BIA) initiative established in 2007 to support a network of 14 IACs, their peak body the Indigenous Art Centre Alliance (IACA) and three festivals including the Cairns Indigenous Art Fair (CIAF), Laura Dance Festival and Winds of Zenadth Cultural Festival.

BIA base funding invests a total \$12.6 million every four years across this network, with most BIA funded IACs also receiving operational and project funding through the Australian Government's Indigenous Visual Arts Industry Support (IVAIS) scheme.

Creative Together's first two-year action plan *Sustain 2020-2022*, included the action 'Expand investment in Indigenous Art Centres across the state'. This was implemented through two approaches:

- Arts and Cultural Recovery Package – part of the Queensland Government's Economic Recovery Strategy 2020/21-2021/22 supported sustained practice and revenue opportunities through new investment of \$830,000 to support 16 IACs, and a further \$665,687 also enabled business development strategies, including product development and distribution, supporting First Nations visual arts and crafts organisations.
- Locally led investment priorities in establishing new centres – investment of \$203,312 over two years is supporting an IAC in Coen, and \$210,000 over two years is supporting The Ration Shed Museum at Cherbourg to enable these communities to realise local priorities including enhancing arts practice and skills development for local artists and arts workers.

Arts Queensland will continue to work with communities and community leaders, including Local Thriving Communities decision-making bodies to develop resources in response to local arts sector needs and interests, including growing the Australian Government's awareness of, and support for, art centres and communities of practice in Queensland.

Response to the Productivity Commission's draft report

The Queensland Government acknowledges the draft Report states that IACs fulfil important social and cultural roles and assists established and emerging artists to practice their arts and crafts. However, two key report findings highlight the significant gap between the objectives of State and Australian Government funding for the sector and enabling meaningful financial outcomes for First Nations artists, artworkers and their communities. Specifically, these are:

- the average annual income for IAC-connected artists was just over \$2700, and for independent artists, around \$6000; and
- that First Nations artists receive less than 15 per cent of the estimated \$250 million generated by the First Nations visual arts and craft industry.

These are key issues that need to be addressed by all jurisdictions, requiring collaborative, coordinated approaches by governments, applying the principles of Culture and Country, Self-determination, Respect and supporting First Nations leadership.

The Queensland Government notes the draft report identifies that artists' sales incomes are lower in Queensland than in other states and territories, and it is clear the impact of the sale of inauthentic crafts, design, and merchandise and the lack of adequate legislative protection for Indigenous Cultural and

Intellectual Property (ICIP) must be addressed. Of equal importance is the need to ensure that First Nations arts and cultural practitioners and workers are well positioned and supported through:

- Strong partnerships – grow the resource base for local development and production
- Community-centred and coordinated approach – collaborative cross jurisdictional commitment, investment and processes focussed on realising First Nations-led strategic priorities
- Ethical supply pipelines – trusted and respectful production support, distribution circuits and platforms that profile artists and their work will ensure significantly more sales revenue is provided to artists' incomes than other parts of the pipeline.
- Appropriate training, succession, and employment opportunities – growing roles and support for First Nations arts leaders, managers, sellers, presenters, and distributors of the work of First Nations artists.
- Education and awareness campaigns – that highlight the quality, uniqueness and diversity of First Nations visual arts and crafts practice, their value, and the importance of supporting sustainable and ethical products and experiences.

First Nations peoples' and communities' increased participation and control within the First Nations visual arts industry could be further empowered by the Indigenous Voice reform in Queensland and the Prime Minister's commitment to implementing the Uluru Statement from the Heart in full. The Queensland First Nations Consultative Committee has been established for a 12-month period to develop an Indigenous Voice preferred model for Queensland that will include taking into account the social, cultural, and economic interests of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Response to report recommendations

The Queensland Government acknowledges the significant body of work that the Productivity Commission's draft report represents, and the comprehensive data gathered and analysed to arrive at a set of recommendations.

It is further acknowledged that there are a wide range of issues to be addressed to ensure that First Nations artists and communities are the main beneficiaries of arts and cultural expression, sharing and commercialisation. These issues, such as First Nations communities' capacity and self-determination in the industry, sit beyond the scope of the Commission's study but are connected to future action on the draft report's recommendations. The following provides a response to the 7 recommendations in the draft report:

Recommendation 5.1 A mandatory labelling scheme for inauthentic products should be developed

The Queensland Government notes the recommendation and believes further consideration regarding the intended or expected outcomes of introducing a mandatory labelling scheme for inauthentic product for consumers and First Nations artists is required.

The report's recommendation seeks to shift the administrative burden of labelling on to non-compliant or unethical distributors of inauthentic art, craft, and merchandise, which provides a level of consumer protection, but does not address the key issues associated with inauthentic arts and its significant impact on First Nations artists.

Labelling schemes can also be difficult and expensive to implement, enforce and monitor and places responsibility for identifying and selecting authentic or inauthentic products onto the consumer who may not be well informed. Queensland has had recent experience of trying to address the issue of inauthentic

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ‘style’ art and merchandise during the 2018 Commonwealth Games where demand for inexpensive merchandise was high, and under current legislation distributors and consumers found it difficult to distinguish between authentic and inauthentic product.

The Queensland Government, guided by the advice of the First Nations Arts and Cultures Panel, believes the recommendation should consider the protection of artists and their cultural and intellectual property rights. The Panel’s strong position is that there is a need for a greater focus to be placed on the protection of artist’s rights including free, prior and informed consent across all levels of creation, supply and sale of works. The Panel’s position is that mandatory labelling for either authentic or inauthentic products continues to legitimise inauthentic product. The Panel also indicated that there is strong backing in the First Nations arts sector to not support labelling, particularly for inauthentic products.

Consumer education campaigns need to be implemented that highlight trusted suppliers and the value and integrity of authentic work. Altering consumer behaviour in relation to purchasing cheaper souvenirs and keepsake gifts will require a large, well-resourced, and ongoing campaign. It will also require greater support for the First Nations visual arts, craft and merchandise sector to respond to grow supply chains to meet market demand at appropriate price points.

Queensland proposes the Australian Government give consideration to ensuring adequate protections are in place for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural expression through art and associated products, as well as for consumers, which could be achieved through a coordinated, multi-faceted approach, involving Commonwealth and State initiatives including:

- nationally coordinated approaches to funding that strengthen the creative businesses of First Nations artists and art centres and enable them to respond to demand for affordable, quality merchandise as well as the fine art market
- non-compliance penalties in place for the import and distribution of work in the ‘style’ of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts, crafts, and design unless the work was made by an actual Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person or created under a fair and transparent licence agreement with the artist’s involvement and knowledge
- facilitating support for partnerships with ethical manufacturers and distributors within Australia to increase profile of trusted suppliers and enable onshore upscaling of local First Nations products
- coordinating and aligning funding and data collection to build on the base line provided by the draft Report, and build a national narrative about the breadth and diversity of First Nations visual arts and crafts
- consolidating support for a national body, whether Indigenous Art Code or similar, to work with regional bodies to monitor and report on unethical production and trade
- collaborating on a national campaign to educate households, consumers and visitors about cultural rights, authentic products and returns on investing in authentic, high-quality work

Through a multi-partite funding agreement, Queensland Government has contributed \$15,000 annually to the operations of the Indigenous Art Code. The report recognises the important work of this organisation as an advocacy and education platform and its potential to grow or merge to sustain and increase its services.

Recommendation 7.1 An Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property (ICIP) Strategy is needed to coordinate regulatory measures

The Queensland Government supports the draft Report’s recommendation that an ICIP strategy needs to be a cross jurisdictional exercise that supports the development of proposed new cultural rights legislation.

Culture and Country, the central principle of the Cultural Engagement Framework used by Arts Queensland is applicable here. The Country specificity of ICIP requires both national and localised monitoring and implementation of ICIP strategy.

In Queensland, the Local Thriving Communities approach that is supporting the creation of local decision-making bodies in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities could inform the design and operation of approaches to localised monitoring, decision making and management of ICIP infringements and consequences. Any requirement for LDMBs to be included in ICIP related matters would need to be consistent with the Statement of Commitment to a Reframed Relationship between the Queensland Government and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People which includes Free, Prior and Informed consent and investing in <https://queenslandcommunities.engagementhub.com.au/economic-strategy> local leadership. There will also be a key role for regional or state bodies, such as the First Nations Advisory Committee, to participate in strategy development and implementation, noting it is important to ensure coordination of leadership groups to avoid concerns about over-consultation and duplication.

In addition to ICIP strategy, an opportunity exists to grow literacy and understanding among Australian audiences and visitors about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts, from traditional education settings such as schools through to strategic education communications campaigns supported by Government. This could include the development and implementation of a national and international consumer education strategy that highlights the intrinsic, cultural, and material value of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts and crafts.

Recommendation 7.2 New cultural rights legislation should be introduced to recognise and protect cultural assets in relation to visual arts and crafts

The Queensland Government supports the recommendation that new cultural rights legislation should be introduced to recognise and protect visual arts and crafts cultural assets. Australian Consumer Law (ACL), as set out in Schedule 2 of the Consumer and Competition Act 2010 (Cth) is a national law administered and enforced by all jurisdictions in accordance with an Intergovernmental Agreement. It is a 'one law, multiple regulator' initiative between Commonwealth, state, and territory governments. ACL prohibits businesses from making false or misleading claims about goods they are selling, including making statements that are incorrect or likely to create a false impression. This prohibition applies to the product description, including its quality, style, characteristics, and origin, and applies even if the seller did not intend to mislead or deceive anyone or if no-one suffered any loss or damage resulting from the statement or claim.

However, as currently drafted, ACL is not designed to work with the complexity of Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property (ICIP) issues within and across the arts, cultural and tourism industries. ACL does not prevent the production of work in the style of Aboriginal peoples and communities, i.e., 'fake art' – and it also does not prevent the cultural reputation damage and negative impact on demand that cheap, inauthentic alternatives provide to consumers, particularly in cultural tourism and gifts markets. In the interim, an amendment to the ACL that disincentivises production and distribution of 'fake art' as has been proposed by Queensland industry stakeholders has the potential to address such issues.

Along with intangible cultural heritage, such as stories and other contents, legislation needs to better protect ICIP in relation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander visual arts and crafts. We recognise that standalone ICIP is a long-term vision.

The Queensland Government acknowledges the draft Report's overview of the breadth and depth of ICIP and its intrinsic value as a unique asset. International instruments such as the United Nations Declaration

on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007) have helped raise awareness of cultural rights, and the *Queensland Human Rights Act 2019* recognises distinct cultural rights for Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Queensland. Notwithstanding this, the Queensland Government supports the development of a robust legal and legislative framework that strengthens and safeguards ICIP in ways that the existing ACL cannot. It will be important that any new legislative framework considers interactions with Queensland's human rights legislation.

Availability of on the ground legal support and advice for First Nations artists and ICIP owners, which connects with new legislation, will be an important component in ensuring the legislation's effectiveness.

The design of new legislation should be informed by a codesign process with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities.

Recommendation 10.1 The Indigenous Art Code can be strengthened through a joint commitment of government and industry

The Queensland Government, in principle, supports the recommendation that the Indigenous Art Code can be strengthened. Cross-jurisdictional discussion regarding outcomes of previous investment in the Indigenous Art is required to identify appropriate adaptations and extensions that an increased commitment could enable, including consideration of regulatory services and national support services. Strengthening the Indigenous Art Code could be bound to an ICIP strategy, to support local and national monitoring of ICIP and enhanced legal support for First Nations artists, organisations, and businesses.

As highlighted in the response to Recommendation 3, there is opportunity to grow literacy and understanding among Australian audiences and visitors about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts. This could include the development and implementation of a national and international consumer education strategy that highlights the intrinsic, cultural, and material value of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts and craft and, building on the Code's Fake Art Harms Culture campaign, could be implemented by an organisation like Indigenous Art Code and Tourism and Trade departments in partnership with artist communities and visual arts institutions.

Recommendation 10.2: Artists should be aware of and able to access legal support services

The Queensland Government, in principle, supports this recommendation and proposes that greater impact could be achieved through focussed investment in specialised and accessible legal advice and support for First Nations artists, artworkers and boards. Investment in legal advice and support may be a more effective use of resources over authentication strategies such as mandatory labelling.

Consideration must also be given as to how national services such as Arts Law can deliver continuous high-quality services to First Nations artists and organisations in communities and on country. This would require extension to existing Arts Law capacity and consideration of partnerships, collaborations and delivery modes that best enable sector access to culturally attuned services.

Recommendation 10.3 Australian Government funding should be evaluated to inform future arrangements

The Queensland Government supports the recommendation that Australian Government funding should be evaluated to inform future arrangements. Federal funding approaches that complement state and territory strategies, informed by First Nations peoples and communities, are critical to supporting the strategic growth of First Nations arts. In line with the growth of support for a First Nations Voice to Parliament, and

the treaty development processes occurring in several states and territories, Australian Government funding for Indigenous visual arts and crafts must be informed by the distinct need of each region and community. Engaging First Nations staff and advisory panels who can address the long-standing pattern of funding distribution and create tailored approaches to funding First Nations art centres and organisations are a vital first step in evaluation and informing future approaches.

In 2021, Arts Queensland initiated cross-jurisdictional discussions to identify opportunities to harmonise IAC investment approaches, including consideration of application and reporting requirements, to remove administrative burden and enable a focus on sustainability and capacity growing initiatives.

The new National Framework for Performing Arts is an established tripartite funding model for the major performing arts organisations in Australia, and one that could be considered for a national approach to IAC investment. The Framework ensures that red tape is reduced for major companies in accessing ongoing investment for their sustained operations and production. If this approach works well for the largest, best resourced arts companies it must equally be applied to the smaller, less resourced organisations facing the challenges of regional and remote locations.

The Queensland Government supports alignment and streamlining of Federal and State funding to reduce administrative burden on First Nations arts businesses, in addition to tailored, strategic investment in response to localised needs.

Recommendation 10.4: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people should be part of shared decision-making in setting objectives for government funding for visual arts and crafts.

The Queensland Government supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities taking the lead in setting objectives for government funding for the sector. This enacts the principle of self-determination and aligns to the state's Local Thriving Communities approach to investment in a communities' arts and cultural infrastructure and activity, working with local leaders to enable and effect local aspirations and needs. For example, Arts Queensland has recently worked in collaboration with community organisations in Coen and Cherbourg to consolidate support for their emerging art centres. This required partnership on securing State and Commonwealth funding for operations, utilising Queensland Government funded Creative Business Champions to support grant application writing and meetings to identify operational and resourcing needs in those communities.

The National Performing Arts Partnership Framework (NPAPF), administered by the Australia Council, in partnership with all states and the Northern Territory provides a cohesive and collaborative national approach to sustainable arts funding for 38 performing arts companies. These well-resourced companies benefit from the stability of up to eight years of funding with reduced administrative burden due to their multi-partite NPAPF funding agreements. Indigenous Art Centres, with their smaller resource bases and already networked approaches should receive similar benefits from national, cohesive approaches to funding.

Collaborative design of frameworks, programs and processes developed to support business and legal aspects of First Nations' arts and cultural business is required across visual arts and crafts networks. Co-designed, national and locally coordinated approaches to ensuring culturally appropriate mentoring, training and remuneration of First Nations arts managers and curators is also required. This would help ensure all First Nations practitioners and communities are appropriately paid for their custodianship and stewardship of visual arts and crafts that are on and of, Country. This is consistent with the Queensland Government's LTC reform and the activities of the *LTC Action Plan 2022-24* which includes a commitment

from each agency to engage in shared decision making and partnership approaches to the design and delivery of investment, services and programs to enable economic reform.



Department of
**Communities, Housing
and Digital Economy**

Our reference: ACT22/4018

Mr Romlie Mokak
Commissioner
Productivity Commission
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Visual Arts and Crafts
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Dear Commissioner

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to the Productivity Commission's draft report on *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Visual Arts and Craft*. The Commission's inquiry is vital to informing our collective strategies to better honour, protect and elevate the arts and cultures of First Nations peoples in this country.

On 16 August 2022, the Queensland Government signed a Statement of Commitment to commence the formal path to Treaty and Reconciliation with First Nations peoples in Queensland. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists, creative workers and organisations will play a critical role in this truth telling and treaty-making process, supporting community and government readiness through the sharing of diverse stories, tangible and intangible cultural properties and heritage. First Nations artists will be invited to contribute to these processes, and it is critical that appropriate frameworks are in place to protect the integrity and value of their work.

The Queensland Government submission to the Productivity Commission's draft report on *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Visual Arts and Craft* has been informed by the Arts Queensland First Nations Arts and Cultures Panel, which includes expertise in the fields of visual and performing arts, Indigenous cultural and intellectual property (ICIP), cultural tourism, business, academia and law. The submission supports or supports in principle the draft report's recommendations, except for recommendation 5.1: *A mandatory labelling scheme for inauthentic products should be developed*. This recommendation is noted with further consideration required regarding the prioritising artists' and communities' ICIP and income protection along with consumer protection.

The Queensland Government's *Creative Together 2020-2030: A 10-Year Roadmap for arts, culture, and creativity in Queensland* has as a key priority, Elevate First Nations Arts. This priority focuses on strengthening of the First Nations arts and cultural sector in Queensland through significant investment in creative work and in

the creative workforce. It is crucial that First Nations artists and creative businesses realise the opportunity presented by the Brisbane 2032 Olympics and Paralympics Games. Central to growing this opportunity is a whole-of-government commitment to strengthening legislation to protect ICIP.

If you require further information to support consideration of this submission please contact me directly on telephone _____ or by email at _____

I trust this information is of assistance and I look forward to hearing the outcomes of the inquiry.

Yours sincerely

Kirsten Herring PS
**Deputy Director-General
Arts Queensland**

16 / 9 / 2022

Encl. (1) Queensland Government response to Productivity Commission Draft report - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Visual Arts and Craft

Queensland Government submission New National Cultural Policy

Acknowledgement

The Queensland Government respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of this land. We extend our respect to Elders past and present, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, as First Peoples of this country.

We acknowledge the continuation of diverse cultural practices and knowledge systems of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

We acknowledge that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander self-determination is a human right enshrined in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous peoples. The *Queensland Human Rights Act 2019* also recognises the particular significance of the right to self-determination of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

About this submission

This submission to the Australian Government's National Cultural Policy consultation is made by the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland in the Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy. The submission is made with regard to the scope of the consultation to *'establish a comprehensive roadmap to guide the skills and resources required to transform and safeguard a diverse, vibrant and sustainable arts, entertainment and cultural sector now and into the future'*, and the proposed reworked policy pillars distilled from the 2013 Creative Australia policy.

Queensland context

The Queensland Government values the significant role that arts, culture and creativity play in enriching peoples' lives and communities and securing prosperous and creative futures for all.

The Queensland Government is implementing a range of policies and strategies to strengthen and grow arts, cultures and creativity in Queensland including *Creative Together 2020-2030: A 10-Year Roadmap for arts, culture and creativity in Queensland (Creative Together)* and *Many Voices: Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Languages Policy*.

These policies and strategies have been informed by extensive consultation with the Queensland arts, cultural and creative sector, other levels of government, key stakeholders and the Queensland public.

They align with the Queensland Government's Statement of Commitment to a reframed relationship with First Nations peoples and the National Agreement on Closing the Gap, which both acknowledge the need for strong First Nations cultures and languages.

Further details regarding these key strategies and policies and their link to draft national cultural policy pillars can be found in Attachment 1.

Queensland's large scale and geographic diversity, its growing population within South East Queensland and its population distribution across several major regional cities and remote communities, presents a unique set of issues for arts and cultural policy and funding, requiring a renewed and more collaborative response in relation to national investment in the state.

The Queensland arts and cultural sector continues to face challenges in securing greater equity in the allocation of Australian Government funding. Historically Queensland has only received approximately 13 per cent of available funding through the Australia Council for the Arts, despite Queensland comprising 20 per cent of the population base. This imbalance has resulted in the Queensland Government doing the heavy lifting to meet the funding needs of the sector and support growth.

The state's arts, cultural and creative sector was supported during the COVID-19 pandemic through the Queensland Government's \$29.5 million Arts and Cultural Recovery Package and live music support, and now faces the challenge of growing its capacity and scale to deliver on the opportunities presented by the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games (Brisbane 2032). Central to this will be:

- securing a fairer share, proportionate to population and in consideration of the unique geographic and cultural diversity of Queensland, of Federal resources for arts and cultural work.
- increased collaborative and coordinated national approaches to investment to affect localised impact and sector growth
- strengthening the First Nations arts sector including a new commissioning platform to grow Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander performing arts in Queensland, and supporting ethical supply chains for First Nations visual arts and crafts
- boosting the arts and cultural workforce to ensure the necessary skills and talent to manage and grow arts and cultural work in Queensland.

Responses to proposed policy pillars

In addressing each of the proposed national pillars, the Queensland Government has identified specific opportunities and considerations for implementation. Key to Queensland's capacity to support delivery of National Cultural Policy outcomes will be partnering with all levels of government, other industries, and the private sector.

First Nations first: recognising and respecting the crucial place of these stories at the centre of our arts and culture.

The foundational place of First Nations arts and cultures in Australia's cultural identity is a strong and appropriate starting place for the National Cultural Policy. To support the maintenance, growth and celebration of First Nations arts requires a national, coordinated approach designed and led by First Nations peoples and communities. This is essential to addressing the challenges and barriers for First Nations artists, organisations and communities including issues of cultural rights, cultural appropriation, market share and profit, and administrative burden.

The National Cultural Policy must commit to First Nations-led, localised, and co-designed approaches, supporting the development and presentation of First Nations work, national and international markets for the work, maintaining languages, growing representation in cultural leadership and creative employment. To support the First Nations first pillar, the National Cultural Policy should consider action in the following areas:

- The First Nations first pillar needs to be expansive and adaptive as referendum, Voice, truth telling and Treaty making processes take place, including growing principled approaches across the sector and community in acknowledgement and respect for First Nations peoples, cultural practices, tangible and intangible heritage and rights.
- **Invest in First Nations arts:** Support the development and presentation of First Nations works of scale and national significance including establishing platforms that will support a pipeline of new work.
- **Establish a National First Nations arts and cultural authority or framework:** There is an opportunity to consider a national First Nations arts and cultural framework with a national body assuming oversight. The national body with DGR status could leverage government investment to grow resources for First Nations arts and cultural work, work across government and business to reform investment approaches and develop the First Nations arts and cultural workforce.
- **Harmonise funding approaches:** A cooperative, coordinated national approach with coordinated KPIs, like the National Performing Arts Partnership Framework tripartite agreement, would reduce the administrative burden on, and support better sustainability in, Indigenous arts centres.
- **Reduce and end inauthentic First Nations arts style products:** A strategic national focus on eliminating inauthentic Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 'style' arts and cultural products would enhance cultural and economic outcomes for First Nations peoples and strengthen Australia's cultural reputation. Consideration could be given to actions that align with the recommendations in the Australian Government's Productivity Commission inquiry into Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Visual Arts and Crafts, particularly the strengthening of legislation that prevents and disincentivises 'fake' art. At least equal to the attention required to prevent unethical ticket sellers exploiting artists and consumers, is the immediate need to amend Australian Consumer Law to prevent the same for First Nations artists and communities.

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

Australian stories bring places to life, enliven communities, deepen connections to the past, anticipate futures, and create distinctive cultural tourism experiences. The scale of Australia and its population, its cultural and regional diversity offers distinct and highly localised stories that celebrate people and place.

Supporting access to quality storytelling, in all its forms, through performances, exhibitions, literature, touring (including schools touring), heritage activities, community projects, screen activities and digital distribution, needs to be core to a national approach. It is important that all Australians have opportunity to contribute to the nation's cultural life in ways that are meaningful for them.

Opportunities that could be considered in the National Cultural Policy include:

- **Invest in the inclusive development and presentation of Australian stories** – partner with artists and organisations to develop a pipeline of story sharing that reflects the diversity of the Australian population, in support of truth telling, arts in education, community development and cultural tourism. Stories sharing should encompass all artforms and platforms available and should diverse experiences and communities

including First Nations, culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, people with disability, LGBTIQ+, children and young people and older Australians.

- **Foster cultural tourism and place-making:** Work with the tourism industry, state and local governments to celebrate place and local stories that deliver regional development and economic outcomes for Australian communities
- **Build cultural reputation** – enhance national and international distribution channels for story tellers and sharers and foster partnerships that increase profile and market access for our celebrated stories and storytellers.

The centrality of the artist: supporting the artist as worker and celebrating their role as the creators of culture.

Artists and artworkers should be recognised not only as ‘creators of culture’ but also in their critical roles in using arts-led approaches to support outcomes across a range of diverse sectors including education, health, community settings and cultural tourism.

Issues of low levels of pay (below national average), the gig economy of arts and cultural work (with limited security) and ensuring a culturally safe workplace can make a sustainable career in the arts challenging. This is exacerbated for specific population groups including artists with disability, culturally diverse and First Nations practitioners. Sector consultation highlights gaps in critical skills, which have contributed to a limited pool of skilled workers and therefore competition between organisations, sectors and jurisdictions. The understanding of what a career in the arts is and therefore the value placed on the profession is low.

A National Cultural Policy should consider the support required to grow and build the next generation of artists and arts workers. Support should include investment focused on enabling individuals to develop their careers in addition to improving work conditions, sector capability, and growing the value and understanding of career options in arts and culture. Opportunities that could be considered within the National Cultural Policy to support include:

- **Work conditions:** Explore the development of national guidelines for fair payment such as those being considered in other countries including Ireland.
- **Cultural workforce:** Invest in the next generation of artists and artworkers through a long-term strategy which supports professional development opportunities and reduces critical skill gaps skills (especially First Nations and regional producers and technicians).
- **Build sector capability:** Work with the state jurisdictions and sector to build the capability in artists and artworkers including strengthening links with tertiary instructions and ability to work in or across sectors.
- **Raise the status of the creative workforce:** Promote the roles of arts careers through campaigns that highlight the important contributions of artists and the types of careers artists and artworkers are involved in.
- **Diversify workforce:** Consider actions which encourage greater diversity in Australia’s cultural workforce at all levels including strategies that focus on the interest of arts workers with disability and First Nations arts workers.
- **Promote cross-portfolio collaboration:** Connect the arts sector with other industries and sectors such as health and wellbeing, youth services and communities to deliver locally-led social projects.

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

Cultural institutions narrate and support Australia’s cultural life and provide employment for artists and art workers. Noting that access does not equal engagement, institutions must find new ways to support individuals, audiences and communities to connect with arts and cultural experiences that are relevant and meaningful to them, whether entertainment based or artistically challenging.

Institutions face issues of financial sustainability, growth and investment diversity, coupled with issues relating to the previous pillar regarding gaps in critical skills and high competition for skills. Opportunities that could be considered within the National Cultural Policy include:

- **Stimulate content and production:** Investment in cultural institutions to stimulate more Australian content and production and encourage risk taking and grow economies of scale to grow creative employment
- **Enable investment diversity** – Foster initiatives and partnerships that increase corporate and philanthropic funding across the sector increasing overall investment and diversity of investment. This could be supported support for organisations to gain DGR status to grow their funding.

- **Creative Workforce:** incentivise companies, organisations and venues to retain and grow a diverse, creative workforce.

Reaching the audience: ensuring our stories reach the right people at home and abroad.

Audiences, supporters, and participants are central to the generation of arts, cultural and creative value and can determine demand for, success and status of arts and cultural work. Our diverse identities, needs, tastes and engagement preferences could be better reflected across the subsidised arts and cultural sector.

Digital transformation and changing lifestyles are influencing audience expectations and behaviours. Audiences are seeking unique and immersive opportunities, accessing live and digital channels at times that are convenient.

It is important that policy and investment support the sector to attune and adapt to these changing environments. This will build Australia's cultural reputation through showcasing Queensland stories and story tellers nationally and international whilst ensuring all Queenslanders have access to rich and high-quality experiences.

To ensure Australian's stories reach local and international audiences, the following could be considered:

- **Strengthen infrastructure:** Flexible and accessible infrastructure and platforms, including appropriate spaces and places, digital technology and platforms and touring infrastructure and circuits, are also critical in broadening reach. Consideration of art in non-traditional spaces will also increase engagement.
- **Foster inclusivity and accessibility:** It is important that a National Cultural Policy drives the development of actions to address the barriers that prevent audiences and participants (including people with a disability, culturally diverse backgrounds, geographic barriers) from accessing and participating in arts and cultural activities.
- **Monetising streaming and digital engagement:** Support artists to respond to the needs of online audiences and earn income from their products.

Key Queensland Government strategies and initiatives

Creative Together 2020-2030

Creative Together 2020-2030: A 10-Year Roadmap for arts, culture, and creativity in Queensland (Creative Together) is a whole-of-government approach to renewing and transforming Queensland through arts, culture and creativity.

Shaped through consultation with Queenslanders, *Creative Together* focuses on building a strong and sustainable sector in Queensland, that can adapt to meet audience demand, embrace innovative delivery models, attract investors, and build financial sustainability.

A strong and sustainable sector is at the core of *Creative Together* with interconnected priorities including:

- Embrace Brisbane 2032 across Queensland
- Elevate First Nations arts
- Activate Queensland's places and spaces
- Drive social change and strengthen communities
- Share our stories and celebrate our storytellers.

Creative Together is being delivered across three action plans. The second action plan, *Grow 2022-2026* was released in August 2022. Underpinned by new investment \$50 million over four years, this action plan will amplify the impact of arts, culture, and creativity in Queensland,

Table 1 outlines some of the key actions the Queensland Government is implementing or planning across each of the *Creative Together* priorities.

Table 1: *Creative Together* priorities and examples of actions to be delivered through *Grow 2022-2026*

Creative Together priority	Key or planned actions
A strong and sustainable sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and release an arts, cultural and creative sector workforce plan to address skills gaps • Invest in sector skills, network and capacity development in collaboration with the sector and key partners • Grow investment in the sector through partnerships with philanthropic and corporate sectors and other levels of government • Enable initiatives that facilitate resource sharing and collaboration
Embrace Brisbane 2032 across Queensland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance the pipeline of high-quality arts and cultural experiences to ensure Brisbane 2032 is a celebration of First Nations arts in Queensland • Strengthen ethical approaches to the production and distribution of First Nations arts, with a focus on protecting artists' and communities' cultural and intellectual property • Leverage Queensland Government international networks to build the profile of Queensland artists and arts organisations • Elevate Queensland's significant cultural events on national and international stages
Elevate First Nations arts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support focused employment and career development initiatives for First Nations arts practitioners • Strengthen ethical production and distribution pipelines to grow audiences and markets for First Nations arts and cultural work • Facilitate the telling of First Nations stories and sharing of cultural knowledge to support Queensland's commitment to Path to Treaty • Lead coordination across all levels of government in streamlining funding models to benefit First Nations artists and organisations
Activate Queensland's places and spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open the new theatre at the Queensland Performing Arts Centre (Brisbane) which will expand opportunities for local artists and audiences to create, develop and experience performing arts • Support shared and sustainable infrastructure solutions that reduce delivery costs and maximise use of resources

Creative Together priority	Key or planned actions
Drive social change and strengthen communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support opportunities to activate non-traditional spaces in regional and remote communities with cultural and creative experiences Invest in festivals and events that activate communities, deliver significant regional development, employ local artists, and realise local career pathways Support local arts and cultural initiatives that enable vibrant, inclusive, and cohesive Queensland communities Grow opportunities for arts-led programs in communities through partnerships with education, health and wellbeing and youth services Partner with councils and other funding partners to deliver impactful arts projects and programs in regional and remote communities
Share our stories and celebrate our storytellers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partner with Queensland artists and arts organisations to create and share new work that reflects the diversity of Queenslanders and their communities Promote and support the implementation of the Cultural Engagement Framework to guide the government and sector in working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts and cultures Recognise and showcase Queensland's storytellers nationally and internationally

Further information about *Creative Together* and its action plans can be found on the Arts Queensland website at <https://www.arts.qld.gov.au/creative-together>

Reframed relationship with First Nations peoples

The Queensland Government is committed to a reframed relationship with Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples that acknowledges, embraces, and celebrates the humanity of First Nations Queenslanders.

On 16 August 2022, Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk announced the Queensland Government's next steps on the Path to Treaty, including the key structures to be established in legislation – a First Nations Treaty Institute and a Truth Telling and Healing Inquiry. The legislation supporting these structures will be co-designed with an Independent Interim Body, made up of Aboriginal people, Torres Strait Islander people and non-Indigenous Queenslanders.

The Queensland Government's Statement of Commitment to negotiate a new way of working in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples provides an important opportunity to elevate the role of First Nations arts, cultures, languages, and heritage in truth telling, community empowerment and agreement making.

Further information can be found at www.qld.gov.au/treaty

Changes to Cultural Heritage Acts

In line with the Queensland Government's objective to reframe the relationship with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, the Department of Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships (DSDSATIP) is undertaking a review of Queensland's Cultural Heritage Acts to ensure the legislation is operating as intended, achieving outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and is consistent with the current native title landscape.

The review will be informed by feedback from statewide public consultation, which identified the critical importance of supporting the desire by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to fulfil their obligations as the primary guardians, keepers and knowledge holders of cultural heritage. Public feedback also stressed the need to enhance the state-wide compliance network and educate industry and government on the value of cultural heritage and how to recognise, protect and conserve it.

Further information can be found at <https://www.dsdsatip.qld.gov.au/our-work/aboriginal-torres-strait-islander-partnerships/culture/aboriginal-torres-strait-islander-cultural-heritage>

Queensland Government Languages Policy

Queensland's *Many Voices: Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Languages Policy* (Queensland Languages Policy) was launched in 2020.

The codesigned Queensland Languages Policy aligns with the language goals of the United Nations: the right to preserve, revitalise and promote Indigenous languages, and is being implemented via the *Many Voices: Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Languages Policy Action Plan 2020–22*.

This action plan, and future plans, are underpinned by the principles of self-determination, recognition of diversity, truth telling and healing, and urgency and action.

The Queensland Languages Policy and connected action plans will assist the Queensland government to meet its commitments under the National Agreement on Closing the Gap, particularly target 16: by 2031, *there is a sustained increase in the number and strength of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages being spoken*.

Further information can be found at <https://www.dsdsatsip.qld.gov.au/our-work/aboriginal-torres-strait-islander-partnerships/culture/many-voices-queensland-aboriginal-torres-strait-islander-languages-policy>

The Queensland Government notes the strong alignment between *Creative Together* priorities and the five pillars proposed for the National Cultural Policy as follows:

Proposed National Cultural Policy pillars	Creative Together priorities	Many Voices: Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strategy Islander Languages Policy priorities
First Nations first: recognising and respecting the crucial place of these stories at the centre of our arts and culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elevate First Nations arts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pathways • Action and activation • Restoration and transmission • Recognition and promotion
A place for every story: reflecting the diversity of our stories and the contribution of all Australians as the creators of culture.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elevate First Nations arts • Activate Queensland’s places and spaces • Share our stories and celebrate our storytellers 	
The centrality of the artist: supporting the artist as worker and celebrating their role as the creators of culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elevate First Nations arts • A strong and sustainable sector 	
Strong institutions: providing support across the spectrum of institutions which sustain our arts and culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A strong and sustainable sector • Embrace Brisbane 2032 in Queensland 	
Reaching the audience: ensuring our stories reach the right people at home and abroad	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elevate First Nations arts • Drive social change and strengthen communities • Share our stories and celebrate our storytellers 	