

Submission to the Senate Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport concerning the Australia Council Bill 2013

I wish to place on record my concerns about the omission of vital wording from the “Functions” of the Australia Council as contained in the Australia Council Bill 2013.

I am an experienced professional with extensive experience as a senior public servant in state and local governments and with a background in the arts sector.

I support the Creative Australia: National Cultural Policy and believe that it delivers a strong vision for arts and culture in Australia but there is a lack of alignment between and the Australia Council Bill 2013.

My concerns particularly relate to:

- the omission of the community from the legislation,
- the lack of recognition of our First Peoples,
- the removal of the role to foster expression of national identity through the arts
- The removal of the function that the Australia Council uphold and promote the rights of persons to freedom in the practice of the arts.

I would humbly request that minor amendments be made to the legislation would see the above issues included in the core functions of the Council. As an experienced public servant I am aware of the critical importance of legislation. Inclusion of these issues would see a greater alignment between the cultural policy and the legislation and leave less important matters open to interpretation of particular administrations.

Respectfully yours,

Pauline Peel

Pauline Peel is a former member of the Board of the Australia Council and the inaugural Chair of the Community Environment Art and Design Committee of the Australia Council. She has been a director of several cultural boards including Chair of the Griffith University Conservatorium Advisory Council. She brings 25 years experience in the private, public and community sectors. She has led flagship projects which have been recognized domestically and internationally for their innovative approach, and achieving outcomes.