

Subject: Senate enquiry into arts funding
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I am not a member of the arts community nor do I have an pretensions or ability in this area, but I firmly believe in the freedom of expression in the artist world. Without such freedom the arts become formulaic and even worse, potentially a vehicle for politically dogma. I cannot see how the removal of an independent body from the administration of funding in this area, to be replaced by a political framework (no matter what side of politics) without any clear indication of what guidelines it will operate under or how this will be managed and assessed is anything other than a retrograde step.

It smack of fear of any form of difference.

Please re-instate the original framework and allow artists to be artists and not mouthpieces for whatever political party is currently in vogue. Populist government is bad enough, having populist government control the arts is even worse.

Regards

Chris Jones