

# A New Approach (ANA)

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CreateSA  
Department of the Premier and Cabinet, South Australia  
Submitted through online YourSAy portal

## Draft Arts, Culture and Creative Industries Bill 2025 (South Australia)

A New Approach (ANA) welcomes the South Australian Government's formal, legislative recognition of the importance of the arts, culture and creative industries. The proposed legislation (the draft Arts, Culture and Creative Industries Bill 2025) is an important and enduring public statement. It explicitly leverages the unique role that government has in enabling arts, culture and creative industries by requiring government to have a statewide policy that is data and evidence-driven, supports innovation, promotes access to and participation in arts, culture and creative industries for all South Australians, and has the needs of South Australians at its centre.

We have provided more detailed responses to four of the consultation questions outlined in the Discussion Paper:

1. Feedback about the Principles in the draft Bill
2. Feedback about the Objects in the draft Bill
4. Feedback about the Functions of the Minister in the draft Bill
5. Feedback about the State Arts, Culture and Creative Industries Policy as referenced in the draft Bill

ANA is Australia's national arts and culture think tank. We believe Australia can become a cultural powerhouse whose creativity is locally loved, nationally valued and globally influential. We work to ensure Australia can be a great place for creators and audiences, whoever they are and wherever they live. In our role as a philanthropically funded, independent think tank, ANA is ready to provide further information about the response in this submission and would welcome the opportunity to discuss. We confirm that this submission can be made public.

Warm regards,



Kate Fielding, CEO, A New Approach (ANA)

## **1. Feedback about the Principles in the draft Bill**

ANA warmly welcomes the Principles outlined in the draft Bill. They establish a holistic, systems-based and whole-of-government understanding of arts, culture and creativity, that provides both a wide-reaching and clear scope for action in creating and implementing a South Australian arts, culture and creative industries policy.

In particular, we support the explicit recognition of:

- Aboriginal culture, arts and creativity as fundamental to the creative life of South Australia.
- the right to active participation for all South Australians in the cultural life of their communities.
- the importance of arts, culture and creativity for children and young people, and that this should be fostered in communities as well as formal educational environments, with the support of artists, creatives and cultural organisations.
- the rights of creatives, artists and makers, and the central role of innovation in the arts, culture and creative industries.
- the local, statewide and national impacts of arts, culture and creativity and the social, economic and wellbeing benefits it generates for South Australians.

## **2. Feedback about the Objects in the draft Bill**

ANA supports the Objects of the draft Bill.

Critically, the Objects of the draft Bill recognise the important role of government and demonstrates how legislation operates as a 'pro-culture enabler' – something within the unique control of government that strengthens cultural access, fosters robust cultural industries, and both complements and goes beyond direct funding.

The Objects of the draft Bill operate as a pro-culture enabler by requiring South Australian governments to take a holistic approach to policymaking, and both understand the importance of and act across different facets of arts, culture and the creative industries policy. These include:

- the importance of strategic planning processes in establishing the best settings for thriving arts, culture and creative industries in South Australia.
- the importance of putting the needs of people and communities at the centre of policy decision-making.
- the role of data, research and evidence in understanding, supporting and growing arts, culture and creative industries.
- the need to create, maintain and expand arts, culture and creative industry career pathways and skills, with conditions that nurture and protect artistic expression and creativity alongside innovation, growth and development of the arts, culture and creative industries sector.
- fostering sustainable environmental practice by artists, creatives, cultural organisations and creative industries.

#### **4. Feedback about the Functions of the Minister in the draft Bill**

ANA supports the explicit requirements in the draft Bill that the Minister:

- 'foster community engagement in the arts, culture and creative industries' – This reinforces the importance of communities and people participating in, engaging with and having access to arts, culture and creative industries, and having the needs of communities and individuals at the centre of policy decision-making and action.
- 'work with public sector agencies to develop programs, consistent with the principles and objective of this Act with, and for, everybody in South Australia' – This is an explicit understanding that arts, culture and creative industries policy has whole-of-government impact and relevance. Requiring the Minister to work across public sector agencies provides an important mechanism to ensure that a holistic approach to arts, culture and creative industries is mainstreamed and normalised within the public sector.

#### **5. Feedback about the State Arts, Culture and Creative Industries Policy as referenced in the draft Bill**

ANA supports the obligation in the draft Bill to prepare and maintain a 'State Arts, Culture and Creative Industries Policy'.

A statewide policy is a centrepiece of government action and investment in arts, culture and creative industries. In particular, we note and support the requirement that the policy must 'set out whole-of-government policies and measures.' This reinforces, alongside the principles and objects of the draft Bill, the importance of a holistic approach to policymaking. Moreover, it reflects an understanding that embedding the principles, and achieving the objects, of the draft Bill will require contributions from across government.

We also note and support the explicit requirement for preparing policy in consultation with communities, cultural organisations, creative industries, artists and creatives in South Australia. This obligation bolsters the principle in the draft Bill that South Australians have the right to participate in the cultural life of the community. It also helps to practically realise the object of the draft Bill that seeks to ensure that community inputs into the strategic planning processes drive South Australian arts, culture and creative industries policymaking.