

14.06.18

**Skilled Migration
Occupation Lists
consultation**

**Department of Jobs
and Small Business**

Submitted online

SUBMISSION: SKILLED MIGRATION OCCUPATION LISTS

NAVA welcomes the opportunity to contribute to this consultation.

The National Association for the Visual Arts is the peak body representing the professional interests of the Australian visual and media arts, craft and design sector, comprising of 20,000 practitioners, galleries and other art organisations. Since its establishment in 1983, NAVA has been influential in bringing about policy and legislative change to encourage the growth and development of the visual arts sector and to increase professionalism within the industry. Through the Code of Practice for the Professional Australian Visual Arts, Craft and Design Sector, NAVA sets best practice standards for the contemporary arts industry.

NAVA is concerned to see the proposed removal of Visual Arts & Crafts Professionals, Directors of Film, Television, Radio, Video and Stage, and other key creative and production roles, from the Skilled Migration Occupation Lists.

NAVA recommends that these professions be retained on the List.

Frequent and well-facilitated international exchange is essential to creative practice. This means welcoming overseas-based creatives into Australia for short-term projects, as well as seeing Australian creatives pursue short-term project opportunities overseas.

The short-term visa and temporary migration of Visual Arts & Crafts Professionals into Australia is critical to the success of our internationally-focused creative industries.

Both major cultural institutions and small-to-medium or artist-run initiatives orient themselves explicitly to international artists, audiences and markets. International artists regularly visit to present work in exhibitions and festivals. This attracts not only significant Australian and international audiences, but also, significant Australian and international sponsorship. These funds are essential to the sustainability of the entire creative industries in Australia.

The Consultation Paper framing this submission process notes a range of labour market factors that inform your decision. In considering analysis derived from the ABS Reliance on Temporary Visa Holders dataset, it is important to note that this data is less and less reliable when it comes to creative roles, given the significant cuts to the Bureau's arts and culture data collection and analysis across the past four years.

The detrimental impacts on the creative industries of removing these professions include:

- Reduced capacity of Australian artists and arts institutions to develop international profiles, audiences and markets;
- A growing insularity characterising Australia's cultural industries given the difficulty in engaging in responsive, confident international dialogue;
- Global damage to Australia's cultural reputation, with damaging effects on the cultural diplomacy elements of trade missions, for example;
- Reduced capacity of Australian arts institutions such as galleries to attract Australian audiences if the ability to bring high-profile and professionally critical artists into Australia becomes difficult or impossible;
- Reduced capacity in Australia's creative industries to sustain local innovation and enterprise due to reductions in local and international audiences, income and sponsorship.

To address these issues, the Australian Government should:

- Recognise that the short-term employment of temporary migrant creative practitioners is essential to Australia's arts sector and creative industries;
- Better resource the Australian Bureau of Statistics to provide comprehensive data and analysis on the cultural industries;
- Retain Visual Arts & Crafts Professionals and other key creative roles on the Skilled Migration Occupation Lists.

I would welcome the opportunity to provide further information as the consultation progresses.

Sincerely,



Esther Anatolitis

Executive Director