

Writing a letter to a politician

Tips

- Feel free to draw on the sample letter but put your message into your own words.
- Be clear about what you're asking (eg support for the campaign, change of policy, allocation of funds).
- Include your own personal account and experiences to add authority and authenticity to your letter.
- Use positive examples of how other key figures or entities have taken action.
- Sign your letter and provide your contact details to enable your target to respond
- Keep it short and simple, preferably one page maximum.

SEND LETTERS TO:

Senator the Hon Mitch Fifield
Minister for the Arts
minister@communications.gov.au

Labour:
Tony Burke MP
Tony.Burke.MP@aph.gov.au

Australian Greens:
Senator Sarah Hanson-Young
senator.hanson-young@aph.gov.au

your local member
www.aph.gov.au/Senators_and_Members/Members

Letter Template

Your Name
Contact details

Target Name (and correct title if any)
Contact details

Date

Dear [INSERT NAME],

Re: Fair Pay for Artists

I am writing to ask you to take action in support of the Fair Pay for Artists campaign.

I seek your support for the art industry's call for a government allocation of \$5 million p.a. to support the payment of artists' fees by publicly funded galleries. As a key person in the government, your voice can really make a difference to artists, the Australian arts sector and the broader community.

As you may know, artists' fees include commission fees, loan fees, fees paid to artists for installation, talks, workshops and copyright fees. Currently, there are no legally required minimum standards for the loan or commission of artworks in Australia, a growing anomaly in terms of industrial fairness for this professional group in Australia, as well as in comparison to artists in Europe and the UK. According to a 2016 survey undertaken by the visual arts national peak body, the National Association for the Visual Arts (NAVA), more than a third of organisations did not say that they pay commission fees and over 44% of organisations do not pay loan fees.

This is indefensible. Like all other professionals, artists deserve to be paid for the work they do to be able to sustain lifelong careers. In not being paid appropriately, their capacity to dedicate themselves to their work is being compromised by the necessity to undertake other non-arts activities to financially sustain themselves. This is a loss to the whole community through limiting their access to the enrichment provided by Australian visual culture. It also impacts on tourism and Australia's international standing as a culturally sophisticated country.

I ask you to support the Fair Pay for Artists campaign by [ACTION: agreeing to a meeting, signing up, changing policy, allocating funds].

Yours sincerely

[YOUR NAME]
[OTHER SUPPORTERS NAMES]