

To the Creative Australia Assessment Panel

I am a Tasmanian Aboriginal artist who grew up with my Mum, Aboriginal artist Corrie Fullard, in northern Tasmania, where I learned to continue the age-old tradition of stringing shell necklaces as passed on by my family. It is a practice that has continued for generations. Recently retired, I spend much of my spare time designing and making shell jewellery. I spend as much time as possible exploring the pristine beaches around Tasmania looking for the wide variety of shells required to produce these beautiful necklaces.

I have recently been appointed as one of ten representatives on the Inaugural First Nations Board for the Arts, an initiative by the national government to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art practice.

I have been a part of this project with Rosny Farm since its early inception and have seen it shaped over the past year by Rosny Farm's listening to our input and understanding of the history of underrepresentation of Tasmanian Aboriginal artists in galleries. This project sees representation unfold on an enormous scale.

We want to see young artists see themselves represented, and the whole island united in celebration of Tasmanian Aboriginal culture and artistic expression.

What is so exciting about the Nupiri-ti Palawa Tasmanian Aboriginal arts festival is this event is not planned as a one-off but incorporates significant development opportunities for artists and galleries and will continue to be part of Clarence City Council's arts programming going forward.

Jeanette James