

The Hon Mike Rann MP
Premier, Minister for the Arts
GPO Box 2343
Adelaide SA 5001

2011/12 State Budget Submission

Tuesday 17 May, 2011

Dear Premier,

The Arts Industry Council of South Australia (AICSA) is an independent voice for the arts. Through its membership, which includes peak organisations, organisations and individuals, the AICSA represents over 1500 of the State's arts and cultural organisations and independent artists.

We congratulate you and your government on the delivery of the key election promise to make the Adelaide Festival an annual event providing the Festival with an extra \$3.3 million each year. It is encouraging to see additional funding of \$600,000 for a Major Exhibitions Fund, \$400,000 for a visual artists' New Works Fund and a Festival Commissioning Program of \$500,000. These initiatives increase the capacity for artists (including South Australian artists) to create work and to attract audiences.

The AICSA recognises government investment in regional arts including the allocation of \$1.8 million over two years for Goolwa to be the South Australian Regional Centre of Culture in 2011-12.

In the context of these exciting new initiatives, we note that savings targets announced in the previous 2010/11 State Budget are having an impact on the arts (as with all portfolios) and we wish to submit the following six points for consideration:

- 1) Cuts to arts funding are equivalent to a saving of approximately \$2 per person, for each person in the State, on an annual basis. These measures will save \$3.3 million per year over the forward estimates, a total of \$14.3 million over four years.

The savings targets will impact on Arts SA, Filmmaking through SA Film Lab, project grants, Out of the Square, and local libraries. Importantly, the effect on small organisations will be significant with the Arts SA Industry Development Fund reduced by 25% over the next four years.

As you are aware, much of the arts industry in South Australia exists within the small to medium enterprise category, supported through the Industry Development funding program of Arts SA. The 25% savings required of this budget will have a significant impact on the infrastructure and profits of this part of the industry. AICSA has contributed to the consultation undertaken by Arts SA to inform the implementation of the restructure.

We urge the government to recognise the flow-on effect of the restructure and the consequent pressure it places on the project funding programs of Arts SA.

2) A study by Professor David Throsby and Anita Zednik *Do you really expect to get paid? An economic study of professional artists in Australia* (2010) shows that artists have not enjoyed the same increases in remuneration experienced by other sectors of the economy since 2003. It is heartening to see an allocation of **\$10 million** in additional funding for artists in the Federal budget for Australia Council projects to address this issue.

The Australia Council research paper *More than Bums on Seats: Australian Participation in the Arts* (2010) shows that the arts are keenly supported by the community. It also shows that engagement and participation in the arts are growing including via new digital technologies.

The AICSA urges the government to ensure that budget measures provide strong support for artists including those working in small to medium organisations as key drivers of the creative economy.

3) Increasing the frequency and range of festivals in South Australia has many potential benefits. However, market saturation during some points in the calendar is also a risk. It is also important to consider the impact of increasing festival funding on other arts activities such as subscription seasons.

We recommend allocation of resources to ensure that festivals are well positioned in the calendar in relation to other festivals and in regard to other South Australian arts companies.

4) Growing the cycle of arts festivals and events will highlight Adelaide as a cultural destination for audiences from South Australia, interstate and overseas. The quality of arts infrastructure, both small and large, needs improvement over time to meet this demand. This is a task for all of the stakeholders including the three levels of government, the private sector and the not for profit sector.

The Integration of the Adelaide Festival Centre with the Adelaide Oval redevelopment is a wonderful opportunity to create dynamic and diverse precinct for the arts in South Australia and the AICSA encourages you to provide appropriate resources for this to occur.

According to Douglas Gautier, CEO of the Adelaide Festival Centre:

Adelaide's aspiration to be the nation's "Festival City" and a creative centre must be underpinned by the requisite venues and infrastructure. The Adelaide Festival Centre (AFC) is now forty years old. It requires an upgrade and renewal for the next forty years. At the same time the AFC should be fully integrated into the Riverside Precinct as its Arts, Entertainment and Events hub. Her Majesty's Theatre now approaching its centenary also needs a comprehensive upgrade.

Budgeting and financial consideration must be given to building the capacity, quality, accessibility and technical facilities of indoor and outdoor venues including ceremonial spaces.

5) The five art forms will be mandated in the new National Curriculum presenting an opportunity for artists and arts organisations to have greater interaction with young people, teachers and schools. There will also be extra demand for teacher training and professional development.

Additional resources will be required to build on the strong arts in education base that already exists in South Australia.

6) Technological change enables artists to work in new ways and to access new means of presentation and distribution. There are also efficiencies to be gained.

Innovation and keeping up with technological change requires investment in equipment, skills development and training.

The AICSA Committee appreciates the continuation of strategic government investment in the arts in South Australia and encourages the government in its consultation and strategic development initiatives.

Please contact Executive Officer, Torben Brookman, to arrange a meeting with representatives from the Council to discuss any of the matters raised in this submission.

Yours sincerely,



Ms Alison Dunn, CEO, Helpmann Academy for the Visual & Performing Arts (Co-Chair)
Ms Tricia Walton, CE, Carclew Youth Arts (Co-Chair)

On behalf of the Committee, Arts Industry Council South Australia

Mr Phil Callaghan, Director Ausdance SA (Deputy Chair)

Mr Gordon Andersen, Director, Three Reasons / Industry Development Officer, Music SA

Mr Stephen Mayhew, Creative Producer Country Arts SA

Ms Sarah Feijen Assistant Director Objects/Preventive, ArtLab

Ms Lisa Philip-Harbutt, Director, Community Arts Network SA

Mr Craig Harrison, Programming Executive Creative Programs, Adelaide Festival Centre

Ms Anne Marie Kohn, Program Manager, Visual Arts & Digital Media, Carclew Youth Arts

Cc Alexandra Reid, Executive Director of Arts SA

Cc John Hill, Minister Assisting the Premier in the Arts

Cc Paula Furby, Ministerial Advisor for Arts and Southern Suburbs