

NATIONAL CULTURAL POLICY FORUM

FORMAL SUBMISSION

Firstly we endorse the proposed 10 point strategy.

1. **Keeping culture strong**

- a) Formal recognition of the importance and value of the arts and culture to the entire Australian community;
- b) Continued and increased support to the 'flagship' organisations and companies around the country which enable artistic endeavour and programming to be pursued at the highest level and with budgets that enable artists to work to the full potential of their ideas.
- c) Increased support for community cultural development. To enable growth within the performing arts sector audiences and communities need to be nurtured at the grass roots level to develop increase appreciation, participation and awareness of the arts within communities and schools to develop the artists and audiences of the future.
- d) Increased training, support and funding for independent producers and management personnel. Artists need to have the time and support to create great art and also the support of producers and management to concentrate on the business aspects of the industry.
- e) We recognise the importance of Playing Australia for touring major and minor companies to regional communities and other states, making art accessible as well as assisting local economies.
- f) On-going and further development of indigenous arts to continue to define our cultural identity.
- g) We feel that there are international models within the taxation and welfare system in countries such as France, the Netherlands and Denmark, that should be investigated which recognise the varied nature and timing of artistic work and enable welfare benefits to be paid to qualifying artists when they are between engagements. This would further recognise the value of artists to the Australian community.
- h) Support for international touring both in and out of Australia which allows Australian audiences to see quality work from around the world, which enriches the Australian community and also broadens the thinking and skills of local artists.

2. Engaging the community

- a) We feel that it would be beneficial to return to a dedicated Community Cultural Development Board within the Australia Council to deliver community engagement.
- b) Increase support for infrastructure and programming for both metropolitan and regional arts venues and arts spaces to enable a diverse range of community arts driven activities in local areas.
- c) Increased assistance for the business aspects of the arts industry, which will enable artists to concentrate on producing great art and community cultural development through the arts.
- d) We support the development of the Cultural Minister Council National Arts and Disability Strategy. We feel that it is essential to provide equal access and opportunity for everyone, including the disadvantaged and disabled, for involvement in the arts as both cultural practitioners and/or audiences members.

3. Powering the young.

- a) Include all areas of the arts and culture in education including, music, theatre, dance, visual arts. This gives the next generation an increased appreciation and participation in the arts which is vital for audience development as well as encouraging the arts to be viewed as a viable profession and career path.
- b) Continued support for training institutions, teachers and specialised arts education programs.
- c) We feel that a subsidy structure for venues which make spaces available for emerging artists and companies is a good way to provide more cost effective spaces for young and emerging artists.