

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER ARTS BOARD

KEY ORGANISATION FUNDING PROGRAM

The Key Organisation funding from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Board has changed. This document tells you what funding is now available, how to apply for funding and when to get started.

1. BACKGROUND

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Board announced in March 2007 a review of the Key Organisation grant category, *Making Solid Ground*.

In the review the Board determined a number of issues that provided the rationale for a review and informed the terms of reference to:

- Define the goals and objectives of supporting key Indigenous arts organisations
- Provide a broad assessment of current achievements of Indigenous arts organisations
- Identify emerging trends, needs, gaps and challenges for key Indigenous arts organisations
- Consider what the Australia Council can do to help organisations
- Look at how the Australia Council can manage the program more effectively.

A letter was sent to current key organisation triennial grant recipients and to state and territory art agencies to inform them about the review and consultation phase. At that time all existing Key Organisations had already been informed about the Australia Council's intention to withdraw its funding after twelve months, also known as Australia Council's 'Fair Notice' protocol.

Consultation

The consultation process involved roundtable meetings and one-on-one meetings with identified stakeholders. Eighteen organisations and five state and territory art agencies participated, responding to key questions asked within a *Discussion Paper* distributed prior to the meetings. Overall, some 200 responses were received.

Analysis

Analysis of the impact the Australia Council funding has made revealed that since 1996, the Board approved \$10,907,844 in grants to key organisations.

As a result *Making Solid Ground* review presented a range of findings and recommendations to the Board in its consideration of exploring ways to support the national Indigenous arts infrastructure in Australia. The new Key Organisation funding program is detailed in this document.

2. FUNDING PROGRAM - RATIONALE

The new Key Organisation funding program recognises the valuable and strategic role Indigenous arts organisations play in making the Indigenous arts sector stronger on a national and international level, in supporting Indigenous artists, practice and sector.

The program provides funding across three sub-categories:

- Key Organisation Leaders
- Key Organisation Emerging
- Partnership.

3. FUNDING PROGRAM SUB CATEGORIES

a) Key Organisation Leaders

Purpose

The purpose of the Key Organisation Leaders category is to offer six year funding to a limited number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts organisations that meet the eligibility criteria and best demonstrate **outstanding achievements on a national and/or international level for Indigenous arts and artists.**

Scope

The Leaders will be offered in 2008 for funding from 2009-2014.

Features of this new category are: -

- A maximum grant amount of \$175,000
- Grants will reduce annually over the 6-year period to encourage recipients to develop other sources of income
- After the 6-year grant period, there is no guarantee of future funding and recipients are NOT eligible to re-apply for Key Organisations funding from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Board
- The Council's Fair Notice provisions still apply and organisations may be placed on notice during the funding period under the Fair Notice protocols.

Application Process - Overview

Organisations will be required to engage with an expression of interest process, as a first step with a closing date of 31 March 2008. The Board will assess expressions of interest against the assessment criteria framework, at a special meeting in April (the full criteria are detailed below). Organisations will be advised of outcomes by 9 May 2008. Short-listed organisations will be invited to submit an application to the 31 July 2008 closing date. Organisations not short-listed are deemed unsuccessful and will not be considered for funding under the Leader sub category for this round.

The Key Organisations section of the Australia Council will manage organisations funded under the Key Organisation Leaders sub category

The processes involved in applying for this sub category is further explained below in section 4 'Process to Engage with the Key Organisation Funding Program-Leaders Sub Category'

b) Key Organisation Emerging

Purpose

The purpose of this category is to offer five year funding to a limited number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts organisations that meet the eligibility criteria and that best demonstrate **achievements on a national, state/territory or regional level and clearly show a potential to be a leader organisation.**

Scope

The Emerging sub category will be offered in 2009 for funding from 2010-2014.

Features of this new category are:-

- Grant amounts will commence at a starting point of \$50,000
- Grants will increase annually over the 5-year period to a maximum of \$ 100,000
- After the 5-year grant period, Emerging Key Organisations are eligible to apply for Key Organisations - Leaders funding, though this funding is not guaranteed
- Organisations will need to demonstrate annual progress towards meeting the Leader sub category criteria. The Council's Fair Notice protocols may be used if progress is not made.

Application Process - Overview

Organisations will be required to engage in an expression of interest process, as a first step with a closing date of 15 November 2008. The Board will assess expressions of interest against the assessment criteria framework and short-listed organisations will be invited to submit an application by 31 July 2009. Organisations not short-listed are deemed unsuccessful and will not be considered for funding under the Emerging sub category.

The Key Organisations section of the Australia Council will manage organisations funded under the Key Organisation Emerging sub category.

c) Partnership

Purpose

The purpose of this sub category is to further the priorities of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Board through supporting strategic partnership initiatives between the arts and non-arts sector and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists and communities that have an artistic outcome.

The current Board priority areas for 2005 to 2008 are:

- Indigenous intellectual and cultural property rights
- Indigenous employment in the arts
- Indigenous arts international market development
- Young people

Inter-generational - transfer of knowledge from elders to the young people.

It is expected the proposals to this sub category will be sector initiated. However the Board may also identify initiatives that address the priority areas to fund. The Board can change these priorities over a period of time.

The sub category is an annual project-funding program with a closing date of 31 July.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Division manage the Partnership grant sub-category.

4. Process to Engage with the Key Organisation Funding Program - Leaders Sub Category

The Leader sub category involves two stages for Indigenous art organisations. The purpose of stage 1 is to short-list organisations that strongly demonstrate they are leader organisations. Stage 2 will apply to those short-listed organisations invited to apply for funding by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Board through an application process.

Stage One: Expression of interest

Stage One requires Indigenous art organisations that meet the eligibility criteria to submit an expression of interest of up to four pages, along with the latest audited financial report by the closing date 31st March 2008.

Expressions of interest must address all the assessment criteria (see below). Expressions of interest that don't address all the criteria risk being ranked low and not invited to submit an application for funding in the second stage of the process.

The Board will assess all expressions of interest in April and short-listed organisations will be notified soon after.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Division of the Australia Council will manage the Expressions of Interest process. For further information, contact Kerri Mellvenny, Senior Policy Officer on 02 9215 9169 or toll free 1800 22 6912.

<p>Stage One requires Indigenous art organisations to submit an expression of interest of up to four pages, along with the latest audited financial statements by the closing date 31st March 2008.</p>
--

Stage Two: Invitation to Apply

Key Organisation Leader applications by short-listed applicants only due 31 July 2008.

Applications will include a six-year business plan, plus a full artistic program for 2009 plus required support material. The Key Organisations Unit will provide a Business Planning Framework for applicants to use as well as a full application kit. Applicants are urged to obtain this prior to preparing an Expression of Interest so that they are aware of what they will be required to provide should they be short-listed.

The application process that follows the above short-listing process will be managed by the Australia Council's Key Organisation section. The Key Organisations Client Manager responsible is Michelle Hall, 02-92159325, m.hall@australiacouncil.gov.au

Once an organisation has been short-listed and invited to apply, Michelle Hall will be in contact with them to assist the organisation through the application process.

As part of this process, short listed organisations are strongly urged to attend a two-day Business Planning workshop in Sydney on 13-14 May. The two days are comprised of a one day Business Planning Seminar and on the second day, an opportunity for organisation

representatives to have one on one meeting with the Client Manager and obtain specialist advice from the Key Organisations Analysts in Business and Governance, Finance and Marketing.

Important:

One board member and one senior management representative from organisations short-listed are required to attend a two-day business-planning seminar to be held in Sydney 13 - 14 May 2008. Please ensure you are available to attend. Your organisation will be provided with some assistance towards travel expenses.

5 Eligibility and Assessment Criteria

Key Organisation Category	Eligibility Criteria	Assessment Criteria
Leaders	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts organisations.	Demonstrate the organisation has the people and other resource capacity to generate opportunities and career pathways for <u>Indigenous artists</u> and arts workers.
	Incorporated under the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2006 or other <u>relevant corporation legislation</u>	Demonstrate effective management of resources.
	Co-funding sources confirmed in writing	Demonstrate financial and organisational stability through a diverse range of income streams.
	Up to 20% reserves in current or most recent financial year reports.	Demonstrates the organisation has the people and other resources and strong financial management capacity and the skills, knowledge and experience capability to achieve the organisations artistic and cultural goals through appropriate skills base and facilities.
	Governing or Management Board/Committee must be a majority Indigenous representation with the Board/Committee executive (i.e. Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Public Officer) must be Indigenous	Demonstrate outstanding leadership and national and/or international impact through the organisations role and program of activities.
	A six-year Business plan that includes workforce/succession plan to employ Indigenous people. Another 3 year business plan is required, if the applicant is successful, by October 2011 for 2012-2014.	The plan includes achievable goals and strategies, workforce/succession plan to employ Indigenous people and realistic budget forecast

6. Key Dates

Date	Action	Who
31 March 2008	Expression of Interest Closing Date Leaders Sub Category	Kerri McIlvenny, Senior Policy Officer, ATSIA
28 April 2008	Expression of Interest Assessment Meeting	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Board
9 May 2008	Applicant Organisations notified of outcome	Kerri McIlvenny, Senior Policy Officer, ATSIA
13-14 May 2008	Two-day Business Planning Seminar, Sydney	Short-listed Indigenous arts organisations only. Michelle Hall, Client Manager, Key Organisations unit will manage the shortlisted organisations
31 July 2008	Closing date - applications	Michelle Hall
3 October 2008	Assessment Meeting	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Board
30 November 2008	Applicant organisations notified of outcome	Michelle Hall
15 November 2008	Expressions of Interest Closing Date for Emerging Sub Category	Kerri McIlvenny, Senior Policy Officer, ATSIA