



Australian Government



Project Officer Kerri McIlvenny
Tel 02 9215 9169
Email k.mcilvenny@australiacouncil.gov.au

22 February 2008

Dear

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Board: Key Organisation Funding Program

I am writing to inform you of the outcomes of the 2007 *Making Solid Ground* review of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Board's Key Organisations grant program.

Key Organisation funding has changed as a result of the review. The enclosed information tells you what funding is now available, how to apply for funding and when to get started.

The review took a two-prong approach: consultation with the sectors arts infrastructure; and research and analysis of internal and external data and information within the following terms of reference:

- 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 can the Australia Council can do to help organisations
- Look at how the Australia Council can manage the program more effectively.

Consultation involved roundtable meetings and one-on-one meetings with Australia Council funded Indigenous arts organisations and the State and Territory art agencies. A Discussion Paper was circulated prior to the meetings and which listed key questions and issues for consideration. Over two hundred (200) responses were received.

The research and analysis included Australia Council data and information, as well as infrastructure funding programs offered by State and Territory art departments.

As a result the *Making Solid Ground* review presented a range of findings and recommendations to the Board, which explored ways of supporting the national Indigenous arts infrastructure in Australia.

The *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Key Organisation* funding program will provide funding support across three sub-categories:

1. Key Organisation - Leader
2. Key Organisation - Emerging
3. Partnership

The Key Organisation Leader sub-category, along with the Partnership sub category will be offered in 2008. The Leader sub category is a six-year commitment by the Board to a limited number of Indigenous arts organisations under a sliding scale or sunset arrangement. The Partnership sub-category is a one-year commitment to Indigenous and non-Indigenous arts and non-arts organisations for strategic initiative projects that address the priority areas of the Board.

The Emerging sub-category is a five-year commitment by the Board to a limited number of Indigenous arts organisations and will be offered in 2009.

Enclosed is a *Key Organisation Funding Program* information document, explaining further the programs eligibility and assessment criteria, expression of interest process and application process.

The funding program will be advertised in the both the Koori Mail and National Indigenous Times and is already profiled on the Australia website www.australiacouncil.gov.au and the *Council's Arts Funding Guide*.

For further information about the Key Organisation Leader sub-category expressions of interest process, contact Kerri McIlvenny, Senior Policy Officer on 02 92159169 or toll free 1800226912.

On behalf of the Board I wish to thank the organisation representatives and our State and Territory colleagues for their time and valued contribution in the *Making Solid Ground* review.

Regards

Lydia Miller
Executive Director
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts



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**2008 Key Organisation Funding Program
Guidelines**