



Arts Industry Council

(South Australia) Inc

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Peter Garrett MP, AM
Federal Labor Member for Kingsford Smith
PO Box 249 Maroubra
NSW 2035

Friday 25 August 2006

Dear Peter,

The Arts Industry Council South Australia (AIC) welcomes the opportunity to respond to the Federal Labor Arts Policy Discussion Paper.

The AIC is South Australia's independent voice for the arts. Our members include over 100 of the state's arts and cultural organisations, individual artists, and arts workers.

We believe that a good arts policy has a long-term view (think 30 years), sets out an authoritative allocation of value, is evidence based and bipartisan. We recognise the discussion paper is aspirational, and we wholeheartedly endorse this aspect of the paper, its introductory overview, and the following aspects:

- amending the R&D Tax Concession Scheme to include projects that fall outside the science and technology criteria.
- amending Section 73 B of the Income Tax Assessment Act to enable the conduct of research conforming to recognised expertise and methodologies in the Arts, social sciences and humanities to be included.
- review the current state of artists' incomes and develop policies to redress this situation.

And with the addition of 'grants':

- the development of a 'Social Security and the Arts' policy that harmonises current Australia Council, Centrelink and Australian Tax Office rules, reframes JobSearch requirements so as to permit new employment opportunities to be maximised and considers the most equitable way to treat earnings, including GRANTS and royalty payments for artists currently receiving welfare.

Whilst recognising this is a discussion paper, the AIC is concerned around details the paper omits, largely how the goals you propose to consider will be delivered. Additionally:

- there should be equal emphasis across artforms.
- there is no mention of the significant role national and state based cultural institutions play in invigorating cultural activity and dialogue.



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- the role of The Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) and Special Broadcasting Service (SBS) in the context of cultural activity needs to be emphasised along with a solid commitment to the expansion of opportunities for the generation of Australian content.
- the value and recognition of all artforms in the education context should be made clear, it currently places heavy emphasis on music.
- in addition to seeking a technological vendor to partner in providing an IT Bank, the need for technological education and expertise within the artistic community needs to be addressed to ensure a sustainable solution is reached.
- there are currently multiple online artists data base and web directories of resources 'established' on the web. Any work in this area would need to streamline and improve on current online activity - not duplicate it.

There are many considerations the paper touches on too lightly. Such as, 'Labor will consider retrieving all existing programs from DCITA and placing them under the Australia Council.' The implications of this are unclear. There are many instances such as this in the paper, which clearly calls for rigorous discussion and consultation with the arts community that the AIC should be a part of. We are putting our hand up to help facilitate this process in South Australia.

The AIC would also like to be part of the nation wide round table discussion, addressing the need and desirability of producing a cultural policy. The AIC also wholly endorses this process proposed in the discussion paper.

As the state's only independent, sector wide representative arts body, the AIC is extremely valuable to the South Australian arts sector. We conduct research, mount lobby campaigns, generate and circulate bulletins and issues papers, meet regularly with Arts SA and ministerial advisors, take delegations to government ministers, host public forums and discussions.

The AIC was constituted as an incorporated institution in 1991. It is one of only two such industry councils in Australia (the other is in Victoria), where once there was an arts industry council organisation in most states. It is to our credit, the South Australian arts sector, that our collective commitment to maintaining our member subscriptions, allows this tradition to continue here today.

Yours Sincerely,

Megan Rainey
Executive Officer