

THE ARTS & HERITAGE SECTOR – CORE SUPPORT

The current position of investment in the Arts, Cultural and Heritage sectors of Australia is completely untenable. We want a profound shift in their treatment. It is a critical part of the innovative future we must foster to be competitive. Opportunity, Accessibility, Participation and Engagement in Arts and Culture must be the priority for Australians everywhere.

We want:

Immediate full implementation of the Senate Inquiry recommendations, including the full return of Australia Council funding removed from the 2014 and 2015 budgets. Additionally we want a **TRIPLING of the actual budget distributed through grants to artists and small/medium sized organisations across Australia**. This would equate to \$124m in additional annual funding.

Reversal of all funding cuts and a 5% funding increase to all our National Cultural Institutions (National Library, National Gallery etc). [Trove](#) must be protected! **AMPAG** ring-fenced funding to remain at current levels but be distributed by the Ministry of Arts directly.

The Catalyst program to continue but be resourced with separate new funding, as well as more transparency in funding decisions.

Establish a major seed fund (\$100m pa) for developing original Australian work

The immediate suspension of efficiency dividends on all national cultural institutions and funding bodies for the next 5 years.

We want **all distributed arts grants to no longer be liable for income tax** for the individuals receiving them. The revenue generated, balanced with the loss of time and value to the grant, make it inefficient and unneeded.

The Arts are central to a rounded education. Education is critical to the future prosperity and success of this country. Therefore we want the inclusion of the arts in the Government's innovation and STEM agendas, and for **music, visual and media art to become mandatory in primary schools**. We also want Australian state secondary schools to offer access to the three subjects mentioned above, as well as drama and dance; to be taught at least once a week by a trained teacher.

The creation of a **National Arts Week**, a 7 day opportunity to highlight, celebrate, participate in and experience the Arts in every form, by as many Australians as possible across the country.

Free entry to all government funded museums and galleries up to the age of 21 and over the age of 65.

The placement of **artists-in-residence in primary and secondary schools** across the country, through expanding the existing chaplains program, to integrate creative practice in our communities and offer educational value.

ABS to be refunded in order to resume collecting cultural participation data and expanding to collect economic and social metrics for the creative industries. **Trial new digital initiatives to present live performance** streamed online across Australia and via regular cinema sessions.

Double the number of companies with National Touring Status and additional funding of \$50m pa to assist commercial producers to undertake tours throughout regional Australia.

[Further policy ideas and positions can be found by visiting our website.](#)