



An Australian Government Initiative



COMMITTEE ASSESSMENT REPORT ROUND 27

This report provides information on the assessment of applications submitted to the Playing Australia Committee in the 27th funding round, which closed on 15 December 2005.

BASIS FOR DECISIONS

The Playing Australia Committee assesses applications with regard to the objectives and assessment criteria contained in the Program Guidelines, and in competition with other applications.

The Committee makes recommendations to the Minister for the Arts and Sport, Senator the Hon Rod Kemp, who makes the final decision and approves the allocation of funds under the Program.

COMMENTS ON THE ROUND

Under Round 27, 37 submissions sought \$3,940,921. The Minister approved 26 submissions, totalling \$2,852,922. This represents a 72% success rate.

As in previous rounds, the Committee placed an emphasis on tours that concentrate on regional and remote destinations, and Members noted that the majority of recommended tours will include performances in regional/remote areas. The Committee was also pleased to see a number of new and remote applicants.

Range of Applications

The Committee was pleased with the range of diversity in art form, and noted the high number of quality applications. The strong competition for funding has reinforced Playing Australia's policy priority of funding regional and remote applications over capital city tours.

Presentation of Applications

- The Committee encourages the submission of:
 - Applications which include efficient itineraries, with economical, sequential tour dates;
 - Applications that include the entire tour itinerary, even when Playing Australia support is only sought for a particular section. This enables the Committee to identify any potential for cross-subsidisation;
 - Productions that have been previously staged;
 - Focussed applications which convey information succinctly and give a clear understanding of the production; and
 - Applications which address ways in which the tour can provide greater value to communities, for instance through the conduct of master classes, workshops or interaction with local youth.

ARIA Codes

- The Committee and Department are now utilising the Australian Bureau of Statistic's (ABS) Accessibility and Remoteness Index of Australia (ARIA) coding system.
- The ARIA map will be displayed on the DCITA website shortly, and will include a link to the ABS website.

Itineraries

- The Committee continues to notice inefficiencies in itineraries. Applicants should be seeking to make tours more efficient. Any gaps, such as the Bump-In and Bump-Out time in the itinerary or extended down-time periods, must be clearly explained in the 'Arrangements for Tour' section of the application form.
- Continuous tours are preferred. 'Breaks' in an itinerary are not ideal.
- The Committee stressed the importance of applicants providing correct venue confirmation forms for all proposed venues. These must include the correct dates and signature of the relevant venue manager. Venue confirmations must reflect the current round with no additional clauses being added by applicants. Use of incorrect forms will not be accepted.
- Regional access continues to be a key priority for Playing Australia. In the case of applications with itineraries that are heavily capital city/metropolitan based, the Committee will be looking for an explanation as to why such an application should be considered.

Budgets

- The Committee encourages applicants to explore discount airfare options, where practicable.
- If an applicant budgets for fully refundable airfares as part of Net Touring Cost, a rationale must be provided in the 'Notes to Budget' section of the application form.
- The Committee would encourage greater explanation regarding freight costs. It was noted that a number of applications included high freight costs. Applicants are encouraged to provide a detailed explanation of freight costs in the 'Notes to Budget' section of the application form.
- Budgets must clearly show other income, including notional allocations from core grants, local government and sponsorships.
- Generally, the 'Notes to Budget' section of the application form should contain details of;
 - Royalty arrangements, including a full breakdown;
 - Royalties **must** be included in both the income and expenditure sections of the budget where relevant;
 - If income from other sources is confirmed, and if not, when it is expected to be confirmed;
 - An explanation of any particularly high or low items in the budget;
 - Rates used to calculate travel allowances, accommodation, per diems, transport and freight costs, to verify and clarify estimations; and
 - Pre-Production costs, and if any income from other sources is to be contributed towards Pre-Production costs.

Acquittals

- The Committee pays close attention to grant acquittals. Acquittal material informs the Committee about the applicant's management capacity, its commitment to the project and the project's outcomes in the context of Playing Australia's objectives.