



Australian Government

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Office for the Arts



**FUNDING FOR
INDIGENOUS CULTURE
LANGUAGES AND
VISUAL ARTS**
2012–13 Guidelines



CONTACT

For further information please contact the
Office for the Arts on 1800 006 992 or visit
www.arts.gov.au/indigenous

Closing date for applications: 3 February 2012



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HOW TO READ THESE GUIDELINES

These guidelines are for the Indigenous culture, languages and visual arts program funded by the Australian Government through the Office for the Arts (OFTA), Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C). Support is provided through these funding categories:

1. Indigenous Culture Support (ICS)
2. Indigenous Languages Support (ILS)
3. Indigenous Visual Arts Industry Support (IVAIS)

The second and third categories replace the Maintenance of Indigenous Languages and Records (MILR) program and the National Arts and Crafts Industry Support (NACIS) program respectively.

- Part 1 of the guidelines provides the national and international context for the Australian Government’s support for Indigenous culture, languages and visual arts activities.
- Part 2 of the guidelines contains general information that is common across all funding categories.
- Part 3 includes information specific to each of these funding categories.

Funding applicants must read Parts II and III of the guidelines as a minimum to ensure that they have all the relevant information regarding the funding category they are applying to.

PART 1 GENERAL INFORMATION

INTRODUCTION

The rich and diverse cultures of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are among the oldest continuous living cultures in the world. They illustrate the intrinsic spiritual relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples with their country, and are central to Australia's identity.

The Australian Government recognises the value and importance of preserving, revitalising and strengthening Indigenous culture and does so by providing funding to support Indigenous culture, languages and visual arts.

This support fosters the intergenerational transmission of stories of law and culture and enriches the social, cultural and economic life of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

It also supports the ongoing viability of Indigenous-owned cultural enterprises which enhance social cohesion, promote respect for traditional knowledge and provide training, economic development, leadership and employment opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, particularly in remote communities.

The Australian Government's support for Indigenous culture underpins Australia's accession to international treaties such as the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* and the *UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions*. These treaties uphold the rights of Indigenous peoples to revitalise, use, develop, protect and transmit to future generations traditional knowledge, traditional cultural expressions, customs, histories, languages, oral traditions and philosophies.

On a national level, support is delivered in the context of *Closing the Gap*, an initiative to which all Australian governments committed in October 2008

that aims to improve the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in urban, rural and remote areas by improving conditions across health, housing, education, employment, governance and economic participation.



Barrupu Yunupingu painting a work titled *Gurtha, Buku-Larrnggay Mulka Centre, Arnhemland, Northern Territory*. Photo by Kade McDonald. ©Buku-Larrnggay Mulka Centre

The active participation by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the cultural sector promotes broader respect and understanding of Indigenous cultures and provides positive role models for younger generations. It also boosts the capacity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to keep their culture and communities strong in response to contemporary challenges and opportunities.

NATIONAL POLICY CONTEXT

Funding for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture, languages and visual arts supports a range of national Indigenous policy objectives and other initiatives, including those outlined below:

- **Indigenous Economic Development Strategy** which provides a framework for Indigenous economic development across five key areas: education and building individual capacity, creating sustainable job opportunities, supporting business and enterprise development, financial security and independence, and strengthening these foundations to provide an environment that supports Indigenous economic development. www.resources.fahcsia.gov.au/IEDS
- **Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage**, a regular report developed by the Productivity Commission that informs Australian governments about whether government policies, programs and interventions are achieving positive outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The report is intended to identify where further work is needed. www.pc.gov.au/gsp/reports/indigenous
- **National Partnership Agreement on Indigenous Economic Participation** which encourages complementary investment and effort by all Australian governments to significantly improve opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to engage in private and public sector jobs. www.coag.gov.au/intergov_agreements/federal_financial_relations/docs/national_partnership/national_partnership_on_indigenous_economic_participation.pdf
- **National Indigenous Reform Agreement** which provides an integrated framework for the task of *Closing the Gap*, based on the seven building blocks. It is a living document, bringing together commitments from across the Indigenous—specific and mainstream National Partnership Agreements. It sets out the policy principles, objectives and performance indicators underpinning *Closing the Gap* and the specific steps governments are taking to meet the targets. <http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/indigenous/progserv/ctg/Pages/NIRA.aspx>
- **Stolen Generation Working Partnership** which provides priority and practical areas for action to support members of the Stolen Generations to heal grief and trauma caused by past practices of forcible removal. www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/indigenous/pubs/stolengenerations/Documents/stolen_gen_working_part.pdf
- **Social Inclusion Agenda** which aims to reduce disadvantage and increase social, civic and economic participation by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. <http://www.socialinclusion.gov.au/>
- The Australian Government’s commitment to reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians, as expressed through the *Apology to Australia’s Indigenous Peoples*. www.aph.gov.au/house/rudd_speech.pdf



Franklin Mye at Erub Erwer Meta Art Centre, Darnley Island, Torres Strait. ©Erub Erwer Meta Art Centre



CULTURAL POLICY CONTEXT

The Australian Government supports a number of initiatives that strengthen the Indigenous cultural sector. These include:

- **Indigenous Art Code** which guides ethical commerce in the sector and provides greater certainty for consumers that the artworks they buy come through ethical processes. www.indigenouartcode.org
- **Resale Royalty Right for Visual Artists** which ensures that, following certain commercial resales, Australian visual artists receive a direct financial benefit as their work increases in market value. The scheme is administered by the Copyright Agency Ltd. www.copyright.com.au
- **Indigenous Contemporary Music Action Plan** which provides a broad framework for government to support the Indigenous contemporary music sector to achieve its full potential. www.cmc.gov.au/sites/www.cmc.gov.au/files/Indigenous_Contemporary_Music_Action_Plan.pdf
- **The National Indigenous Languages Policy** which confirms the Australian Government's commitment to addressing the serious problem of language loss. The implementation of the policy aims to co-ordinate action among agencies involved in the maintenance and revival of Indigenous languages, including government, Indigenous languages organisations, educational and research institutions thereby assisting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to connect with their language and culture. www.arts.gov.au/indigenous
- **Indigenous Employment Initiative** (IEI) which supports the employment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and contributes to closing the gap in employment outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous

Australians. In the Indigenous cultural sector, over 600 jobs are currently supported through this initiative. Employees in these positions benefit from mainstream employment conditions such as superannuation, annual leave and training component with some employees pursuing accredited TAFE courses in arts administration and on-the-job skills development.

- **Visual Arts and Craft Strategy** which is a joint initiative of the Australian Government and state and territory governments for the purpose of building a strong and dynamic contemporary visual arts sector.

One of the Strategy's key priorities is to provide increased professional support for Indigenous artists, and funding is provided to Indigenous visual arts and craft organisations for this purpose. www.arts.gov.au/indigenous

Other sector initiatives

- **The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Policy** which describes the Australia Council's implementation of policy and programs promoting the artistic and cultural expression of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. www.australiacouncil.gov.au/artforms/aboriginal_and_torres_strait_islander_arts
- **Solid Arts** which is a website providing free legal tools and practical advice to help Indigenous artists and the broader community better understand the various intellectual property issues which affect both the artists and the people who work with them.

Solid Arts is hosted by the Arts Law Centre of Australia and has been supported by the Cultural Ministers Council. www.solidarts.com.au

PART 2

FUNDING FOR INDIGENOUS CULTURE, LANGUAGES AND VISUAL ARTS



OFTA administers programs and policies that encourage participation in and access to Australia's arts and culture through developing and supporting cultural expressions. This includes funding for Indigenous culture, languages and visual arts. Funding is provided through an annual competitive funding round on either an annual or triennial basis.

Support for Indigenous culture

Supports the continued development, maintenance and transmission of traditional culture and contemporary Indigenous cultural expression embedded in community as a central driver of Australian culture. It facilitates the participation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in a wide range of Indigenous cultural activities and supports the transferral of cultural knowledge across age groups. It also promotes cultural exchange among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and between all Australians. Emphasis is placed on activities that enrich Indigenous culture, develop skills and encourage a strong sense of cultural identity in communities.

Support for Indigenous languages

Supports community based activities by language groups, language research and the development and coordination of language resources. It aims to address the erosion and loss of Australia's Indigenous languages. A key focus of the funding is the maintenance and revival of Australian Indigenous languages as living systems of knowledge shared by communities and passed on to new generations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Support for Indigenous visual art

Supports the operations of Indigenous art centres and allied industry organisations with the aim of building a stronger Indigenous visual arts industry. Indigenous-owned art centres provide a unique opportunity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander

peoples to maintain and develop professional arts practice, engage in ethical economic activity, develop skills and be part of the internationally-renowned Indigenous visual arts industry.

Annual funding

Annual funding provides fixed funding over a one-year period and supports applicants that are either:

- seeking Indigenous culture, languages and visual arts funding for the first time
- emerging and therefore have not yet established a track record of achievement
- undergoing a period of organisational transition
- seeking support for a once only activity or single project
- established organisations who do not seek, or meet the requirements for, triennial funding.

Triennial funding

Triennial funding provides fixed annual funding over a three-year period and supports applicants that demonstrate:

- a history of high-quality performance against funding objectives
- financial and administrative stability.

Applicants who have not previously received funding through the culture, languages or visual arts programs are not eligible to apply for triennial funding.

Receipt of funding on a triennial basis will not affect eligibility to apply for funding for additional activities outside the scope of the triennially funded activity.

Unsuccessful triennial applicants will automatically be considered for annual funding.



GENERAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To be eligible for Indigenous culture, languages and/or visual arts funding, applicants must demonstrate good governance, business planning and, where appropriate, a history of high-quality performance against funding objectives.

Applicants must:

- have an Australian Business Number (ABN)
- be registered for the Goods and Services Tax (GST), if required by the Australian Tax Office
- be a separate legal entity such as an incorporated association or a company
- have no outstanding acquittals or serious* breaches relating to any Australian Government funding.

* a serious breach is one that has resulted in, or warrants, termination of a funding agreement.

Indigenous culture, languages and visual arts funding is *not* available for activities that:

- have already occurred
- are to be undertaken by an individual
- are the responsibility of other Australian Government programs (refer to www.grantslink.gov.au for information about other government funding)
- are part of the National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC) celebrations
- occur outside Australia
- fall within the scope of the Indigenous Heritage Program (IHP) managed by the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities. IHP provides funding for activities which identify, conserve and promote Indigenous heritage places

- are the core business of schools and include, for example, teacher salaries, curriculum or resource development
- include re-granting of funds to other groups or organisations without prior agreement from OFTA.

GENERAL ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Applications for funding will be assessed against both:

- the general assessment criteria listed on page 8
- specific criteria relevant to the funding category.

Specific criteria relevant to each of the funding categories are listed in *Part 3 Funding categories—Specific information*. The application form has been designed to assist you to state your claims against the selection criteria.

For previous funding recipients, performance and acquittal under previous and current funding agreements with the Australian Government may also be taken into consideration when applications are assessed.

Annual funding

All applicants seeking annual funding will be assessed against the following general assessment criteria:

1. The likely benefits of the proposed activity in the Indigenous culture, languages and visual arts areas.
2. Ability to carry out the proposed activity, including the applicant's track record in relation to planning, governance and financial management.
3. Demonstrated need for funding, including provision of a realistic and sound budget for the year of proposed funding.

Triennial funding

All applicants seeking triennial funding will be assessed against the following general assessment criteria:

1. Quality and relevance of the applicant's three-year strategic plan to the funding objectives of the relevant funding category. This includes the proposed activity's likely contribution to strengthening Indigenous culture, languages or visual arts.
2. Capacity of the applicant to fulfil the three-year strategic plan.
3. The applicant's ability to carry out the proposed activity to a high standard, including the applicant's track record in relation to planning, governance and financial management.
4. Demonstrated need for funding, including provision of a realistic and sound budget for the three years of proposed funding.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Contacting OFTA

For enquiries or assistance in lodging an application please contact OFTA on 1800 006 992 or visit the website at www.arts.gov.au/indigenous


New applicants are strongly encouraged to discuss their proposal with OFTA prior to submitting. Please note, any information that you receive from OFTA is for information only and should not be viewed as legal or business advice.

How to apply

Applicants are strongly encouraged to apply using an Electronic submission (eSub), available at <https://apps.indigenous.gov.au/esub/>. The eSub provides an online application form for the 2012–13 OFTA Indigenous culture, languages and visual arts funding round. This form enables you to apply for funding in one or more of the culture, languages and visual arts funding categories.

To use the eSub, complete the following steps:

1. Register as a user by completing the eSub Registration Form available on the eSub website. Once complete please save your request and then click on the 'Send by email' button. Following this you will be provided with an eSub website User ID and Password within one working day.
2. On the eSub website, login using your User ID and Password and click the 'Login' button or press the 'Enter' key.
3. Read the disclaimer and if you agree, select the 'Agree' button.

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4. If you are a currently funded client you are able to download your current client data and confirm or update this information. If you are not currently receiving funding you will be asked to supply client information as part of the submission forms.
 5. Click the 'Online Submission' link to create a submission.
 6. Select Indigenous Culture Support (ICS), Indigenous Languages Support (ILS) or Indigenous Visual Arts Industry Support (IVAIS) from the list of activities provided and click the 'Apply' button.
 7. Follow the screen prompts to complete the submission. Additional information can be accessed by clicking the 'Help' button on each screen. The 'Completion Guide' will show you if there are questions that still need to be answered or if your answers are incomplete.
 8. If you wish to apply for funding in more than one of the Indigenous culture, languages and visual arts funding categories, return to the 'Activity List' screen to add another category (step 6. above).

If you have any questions regarding the eSub process contact the eSub helpdesk on 1800 440 944.

If you have any questions regarding the Indigenous culture, languages and visual arts funding application contact OFTA on 1800 006 992.

Manual applications

If you are unable to lodge your application electronically using the eSub, please contact OFTA on 1800 006 992 to request a hard copy. Hard copy applications will be provided in exceptional circumstances.

Closing date and time

The closing time for the 2012–13 funding round is 5.00pm Australian Eastern Daylight Saving Time 3 February 2012.

Late applications

Late applications are generally not accepted and will only be considered in exceptional circumstances. Where unforeseen circumstances prevent you from lodging your application on time, you must contact OFTA in writing **prior to the closing time** to request an extension of time, giving reasons for your request. OFTA will notify you of the outcome of your request for an extension of time.

Complaints management

If you have any concerns about the way in which your application has been handled or assessed, including concerns regarding possible bias or potential conflict of interest, please contact OFTA on 1800 006 992 for assistance with the matter.

GOVERNANCE

Decisions relating to Indigenous culture, languages and visual arts funding are at the discretion of OFTA.



Wipana Jimmy working at Tjungu Palya Artists, Nyapari, Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Lands, South Australia
©Tjungu Palya Artists

SELECTION PROCESS

Indigenous culture, languages and visual arts funding is limited and, as there is strong demand for the funds, the application process is highly competitive.

Your application will be assessed in competition with other applications seeking support from the same funding category (i.e. culture, languages or visual arts).

Key stages in the assessment process are as follows:

- An assessment of applications against relevant assessment criteria is made by OFTA. A cross-agency risk assessment may be undertaken at this time.
- A moderation panel comprising State and National Office OFTA representatives meets to consider recommendations in the context of state and national priorities and to ensure consistency and comparative merit.
- Funding recommendations are made to the OFTA delegate in the context of the funding objectives and the total available budget.

- The OFTA delegate makes the final decisions in relation to Indigenous culture, languages and visual arts funding.

Applicants are generally advised of the outcome of their application in June each year.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF FUNDING

Allocation of funding

The OFTA delegate may approve less funding than requested in an application, or approve an activity in part. If this occurs, OFTA will work with the applicant to revise the activity objectives and budget.

Funding agreement


Successful applicants will be required to enter into a funding agreement with the Commonwealth. The funding agreement sets out the nature of the relationship between the Australian Government and the funding recipient.

The funding agreement will specify, amongst other things, the terms and conditions of the funding agreement, the objectives, key performance indicators, a timeframe, budget and reporting and audit requirements.

All funding recipients will need to certify that they have no outstanding grant acquittals or breaches relating to Australian Government funding.

The funding agreement will confirm your agreement to abide by relevant Australian Government laws and policies.

All funds provided by OFTA must be appropriately expended prior to the end of the funding period identified in the funding agreement.



The standard terms and conditions of this funding are available at: www.fahcsia.gov.au/grantsfunding/currentfunding/Documents/funding_terms_conditions/default.htm

Please note:

- *Funds will not be paid unless the funding agreement has been signed by both parties*
- *Activities must not begin before the funding agreement is signed by both parties*
- *Funding is not available for activities that have already occurred.*

Reporting requirements

Reporting on Australian Government funded activities ensures that funding is used for the intended purpose and that funds can be fully accounted for.

Reporting also provides valuable data that can inform further development of policy.

Successful applicants will be required to provide reports to OFTA, as specified in the funding agreement including:

- progress of the activity against the agreed objectives
- progress of the activity against the approved budget.

At the end of the funding period, grant recipients will also be required to submit a final report and acquittal of all funding. This may include independently audited financial statements and other financial information, as outlined in the funding agreement and attached schedules. The acquittal is normally required within 60 business days of the conclusion of the activity.

Evaluation

Successful applicants will also be required to participate in a broader evaluation of Indigenous culture, languages and visual arts funding. The evaluation will seek to identify outcomes arising from the funding and to document the impact of the activities on their region(s). An evaluation may also include a survey of applicants who have received funding support.

Record keeping

Funding recipients must keep relevant records that can demonstrate the performance of the activity in meeting its objectives and performance indicators.

Variations

All proposed variations to the approved activity or budget stated in the funding agreement require prior written approval from OFTA. Requests for additional funding will only be considered in exceptional circumstances.

Payments

All funding will be subject to the terms and conditions set out in the funding agreement, including conditions relating to the deposit of funds, auditing and unspent program monies.

Payments will be made against the agreed schedule, set out in the funding agreement, following execution of the funding agreement by OFTA and on the provision of details of a bank account into which grant monies are to be paid. Payments against the schedule are subject to OFTA's acceptance of milestone reports, also set out in the funding agreement, and the demonstrated need for approved funds to continue the activity.

Conflict of interest

Successful applicants need to undertake their activities in a way that avoids conflict of interest, whether perceived or actual.

This applies particularly to the selection of suppliers to the activity, who must be chosen and engaged in an open and competitive process and in a way that maximises value for money.

TAX AND LEGAL INFORMATION

Please note that OFTA does not provide legal advice to applicants. Applicants should seek their own independent professional advice on all financial and legal matters, including compliance with any statutory obligations.

Australian Business Number

An Australian Business Number (ABN) is the identifying number that individuals and organisations use when dealing with the Australian Taxation Office and other organisations in relation to GST. Applicants are required to have an ABN to be eligible for funding.

Name of legal entity

When submitting an application for funding, each applicant must provide its full legal entity name, i.e. the full incorporated association or company name, as per the ABN for that entity. The legal entity name must match the ABN provided.

Tax and government funding

Depending on individual circumstances, there may be taxation consequences arising from the receipt of funding from OFTA. Applicants should seek advice about taxation consequences (including income tax and Goods and Services Tax) arising from receipt of funding by consulting their financial adviser or the Australian Taxation Office Business Call Centre on 13 28 66.

Goods and services tax registration

Community groups or other non-profit organisations with an annual turnover of \$150 000 or more, and other organisations carrying on a business with an annual turnover of \$75 000 or more, are required by law to be registered for GST.

Goods and Services Tax

Unless otherwise indicated, funding provided by OFTA is subject to GST.

Funding recipients registered (or required to be registered) for GST may have to pay GST to the Australian Taxation Office on the funding it receives if it makes a taxable supply in return for that funding.

All budgets submitted as part of the application for funding should be exclusive of GST.

Income tax, superannuation, fringe benefits tax and social security

Applicants should be generally aware that unless exempt from income tax:

- provision of Indigenous culture, languages and/or visual arts funding is included as assessable income, in relation to carrying on a business
- any capital gain on disposal of assets is assessable income
- funding recipients may have a requirement to pay fringe benefits tax and make superannuation contributions to a complying fund or pay the superannuation guarantee charge to the Australian Taxation Office in respect of any employees, if applicable
- income from the sale of artwork may be included as assessable income.

Applicants should check with the Australian Taxation Office regarding their income tax obligations at: www.ato.gov.au



Background checks

OFTA may, at any time in the evaluation and selection process, examine the financial records of the applicant organisation and undertake background checks, including criminal records of directors and staff, to determine the business reputation of the applicant organisation.

Privacy and confidentiality

OFTA is accountable to the Parliament of Australia and to the public in respect of all aspects of the Indigenous culture, languages and visual arts funding. In this context, OFTA is generally unable to accept grant submissions on a confidential basis. However, treatment of submissions is subject to special obligations placed on Australian Public Service employees by the *Privacy Act 1988* and the *Public Service Act 1999*, which govern OFTA's use of the information provided.

Please note that information received in applications may be provided to other Australian Government agencies for comment.

Successful applicants will have basic information—including applicant name, location and funding amount—about their grant(s) published on the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's website at www.dpmc.gov.au/accountability/grants in accordance with Commonwealth Grant Guidelines.



Ella Rose Savage at Erub Erwer Meta Art Centre, Darnley Island, Torres Strait. © Erub Erwer Meta Art Centre

ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE

To assist you to develop your Strategic Plan (required for triennial and IVAIS applications), the following templates are available from the 'How to apply' page at: www.arts.gov.au/Indigenous

Strategic plan templates

- Sample goal and KPI set
- Sample goals and strategies matrix
- Suggested format for strategies
- Suggested format for Board information
- Suggested format for staff information

Sample funding terms and conditions and a sample funding agreement are also available at www.arts.gov.au/Indigenous

PART 3 FUNDING CATEGORIES— SPECIFIC INFORMATION

INDIGENOUS CULTURE SUPPORT (ICS)

The Australian Government recognises the significance and importance of culture to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and provides Indigenous Culture Support (ICS) funding. ICS funding supports the maintenance and transmission of traditional culture and contemporary Indigenous cultural expression embedded in community as a central driver of Australian culture.

New and imaginative forms of cultural expression are encouraged and funding supports cultural exchange among different communities and between Indigenous and non Indigenous Australians. ICS funding places emphasis on participation and achievements that enrich Indigenous culture, develop skills and encourage a strong sense of identity in communities.

Funding objectives

The Australian Government provides approximately \$7 million each year through ICS to support Indigenous culture. The ICS funding objectives are to:

- support the maintenance of Indigenous culture
- support new forms of Indigenous cultural expression
- support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' engagement in cultural activities
- promote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander wellbeing by strengthening pride in identity and culture.

Funding under this category is limited to \$100 000 (excluding GST) per activity.

Within this total funding limit, applications for Indigenous community festivals are limited to \$30 000 (excluding GST) per festival.

Activities that are supported

Funding in this category is only available for activities where the purpose is the maintenance and continued development of Indigenous culture at the community level. This may include multimedia workshops with young people, traditional art and craft production with a primarily community development or cultural maintenance focus, dance and theatre, community festivals across Australia showcasing Indigenous talent and exhibitions of community based art and craft activity.

Activities may:

- involve the whole community or sections of the community such as women, men, young children, youth at risk, Stolen Generation members and Elders
- enable the sharing of skills and information amongst community members
- increase skills of cultural workers and organisers
- involve new and imaginative forms of Indigenous cultural expression.

Activities should support community, foster self-esteem, enhance skills and, where possible, build on existing community projects and sound organisational infrastructure.

Applicants are encouraged to use the receipt of ICS funding to leverage support from other funding sources.

Specific eligibility criteria

In addition to meeting the general eligibility criteria listed on page 7, applicants must be Indigenous owned and controlled entities or be able to demonstrate strong community support for the proposed activity.

Funding in this category is **not** available for:

- capital costs, including for infrastructure or equipment
- activities with a primarily commercial focus or intent
- activities with a primarily cultural tourism focus or intent
- activities with a focus on professional visual art practice (funding for this should be sought through the Indigenous Visual Arts Industry Support category)
- activities based and held in the Torres Strait Islands. The Torres Strait Regional Authority administers Commonwealth funding for culture in this region. However, applications for funding for activities relating to Torres Strait culture that are based in Australia but outside the Torres Strait Islands region are eligible
- international travel or offshore activities.

ICS additional assessment criteria

In addition to the general assessment criteria on page 7, applicants will be assessed against demonstrated performance and commitment in the area of Indigenous culture and capacity to contribute to ICS objectives. This should include one or more of the following elements:

- capacity to support innovative forms of Indigenous cultural expression
- ability to facilitate Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples' engagement in cultural activities
- capacity to encourage transmission of culture between generations.

INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES SUPPORT (ILS)

(formerly the Maintenance of Indigenous Languages and Records program)

The Australian Government recognises the importance of Australia's Indigenous languages and is committed to addressing the serious problem of language loss. In August 2009, the Australian Government announced its *National Indigenous Languages Policy* to co-ordinate action among the agencies involved in the maintenance and revival of Indigenous languages, including government, Indigenous languages organisations and educational and research institutions.

Indigenous Languages Support (ILS) assists the maintenance and revival of Australian Indigenous languages as living systems of knowledge shared by communities and passed on to new generations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Funding aims to address the erosion and loss of Australia's Indigenous languages by supporting community based activities by language groups, language research and the development and coordination of language resources.



Ngarrindjeri Language class with Professor Chil'ad Zuckermann –Chair of Endangered Languages. Image source: Davina Egege

Funding objectives

The Australian Government provides approximately \$9 million each year through ILS to support Indigenous languages. The ILS funding objectives are to:

- support the maintenance revival, and development of Indigenous languages
- increase the use of Indigenous languages in a range of fields and media
- support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' engagement with their languages
- promote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander wellbeing by strengthening pride in identity and culture through languages
- promote public appreciation of Indigenous languages.

Activities that are supported

Funding in this category is available for activities where the purpose is the maintenance and revival of Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages including:

- documenting and recording of Indigenous languages
- the development of research, language resources and language databases
- assisting the development and delivery of programs through language centres
- activities that promote Indigenous languages in the wider community
- innovative activities using multi media and new technologies.

Limited operational or infrastructure (capital) funding may be available when it is clearly related to the specific language activity for which funding is being sought.

Specific eligibility criteria

Any applicant that meets the general eligibility criteria listed on page 7 can apply for ILS funding.

Funding in this category is **not** available for:

- activities with a primarily commercial focus or intent
- activities based and held in the Torres Strait Islands. The Torres Strait Regional Authority administers Commonwealth funding for language in this region.

However, applications for funding for activities relating to Torres Strait language that are based in Australia but outside the Torres Strait Islands region are eligible

- international travel and offshore activities
- interpreting and translating services.

ILS additional assessment criteria

In addition to the general assessment criteria on page 7, applicants will be assessed against demonstrated performance and commitment in the area of Indigenous languages and capacity to contribute to ILS objectives. This should include one or more of the following elements:

- capacity to achieve outcomes for the maintenance, revival and/or development of Indigenous languages
- capacity to support the innovative use of Indigenous languages in a new field or medium
- ability to facilitate Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples' engagement with their languages
- potential to increase public appreciation of Indigenous languages
- engagement with other language organisations.



INDIGENOUS VISUAL ARTS INDUSTRY SUPPORT (IVAIS)

(formerly the National Arts and Crafts Industry Support program)

Indigenous visual arts are fundamentally important to Australian culture and have been growing in critical recognition and market share for many years.

The Indigenous visual arts industry has been built on the work of Indigenous-owned art centres which produce and market some of Australia's most dynamic visual art, while also building capacity, maintaining and transmitting culture and generating income and employment opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists.



Stitching Memories activity conducted by the Saltwater Freshwater Arts Alliance. Image source: Saltwater Freshwater Arts Alliance

Funding objective

The Australian Government provides approximately \$11 million each year through IVAIS to Indigenous art centres and allied industry support organisations with the objective of building a stronger Indigenous visual arts industry.

Activities that are supported

Funding in this category places a strong emphasis on professional visual arts practice and economic outcomes. It:

- supports the operations of Indigenous art centres, and organisations involved in the

production, promotion and marketing of Indigenous visual art

- provides opportunities for Indigenous artists to maintain, develop and extend their professional art practice
- provides opportunities for art centre staff, artists and Board members to develop professional skills and experience
- facilitates the delivery of services to the Indigenous visual arts industry by allied industry support organisations.

While eligible for support, capital works and infrastructure activities are a lower priority in the context of consistently high demand for operational funding.

Specific eligibility criteria

Any applicant that meets the general eligibility criteria listed on page 7 can apply for IVAIS funding. Applicants based in the Torres Strait Islands are eligible to apply for funding to support Indigenous visual arts activities.

Applications for IVAIS annual funding must also include a strategic plan. Ideally, these will cover a three-year period, but at minimum must relate to the proposed funding period.

Funding in this category is **not** available for:

- activities that are unable to demonstrate a contribution to the operations of an art centre or strengthening the industry
- activities whose purpose is not principally the production, promotion and marketing of Indigenous visual arts and crafts
- visual arts activities that are primarily focused on community development or cultural maintenance (funding for these should be sought through the Indigenous Culture Support category)
- international travel or offshore activities.

Additional funding assessment criteria

In addition to the general assessment criteria on page 8, applicants will be assessed against demonstrated performance and commitment in the area of Indigenous visual arts and capacity to contribute to IVAIS program objective of building a stronger Indigenous visual arts industry. The Australian Government's approach to building a stronger Indigenous visual arts industry is outlined in the *Indigenous Art Centre Strategy and Action Plan* available at: www.arts.gov.au/sites/default/files/pdfs/indig-art-centres-strategy-action-plan.pdf

The Plan outlines key result areas across professional art practice, business management and employment and training. Applicants should identify which key result areas they consider their activity will address, and explain how.

Applicants will be assessed on the extent to which their proposed activity contributes to these key result areas.



A series of self-portraits by young artists from Yirrkala Community in Eastern Arnhem Land as part of the exhibition, *Young Ones*.
Image source: *Buku-Larrnggay Mulka Centre*

Indigenous Art Code

The *Indigenous Art Code* is an industry led Code that guides ethical commerce in the Indigenous visual arts industry. The Code establishes a set of standards for commercial dealings with Indigenous visual artists, provides a benchmark for ethical behaviour and builds greater certainty for consumers that the artworks they buy are produced and sold through ethical processes.

Membership is voluntary, however, applicants are encouraged to become signatories if they are seeking Australian Government funding to support activities in the Indigenous visual arts industry. Further information is available at www.indigenousartcode.org

ARTS AND CULTURE PROGRAM— LINE OF SIGHT WITH CLOSING THE GAP INDICATORS

CLOSING THE GAP

TARGETS

In 2008, the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) set six specific targets for *Closing the Gap*, a commitment by all Australian governments to improve the lives of Indigenous Australians, and in particular provide a better future for Indigenous children.

Indigenous culture plays an intrinsic role in *Closing the Gap*. Participation in and connections to Indigenous languages, culture and the arts are vital to wellbeing and promote better health, education and employment outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

By supporting Indigenous culture, languages and visual arts, the Australian Government makes an important contribution to the *Closing the Gap* agenda and contributes directly to the COAG target to halve the gap in employment outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians within a decade.

Performance indicator (COAG target)

To halve the gap in employment outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians within a decade.

Indigenous Arts and Culture pathways to Closing the Gap

- ✓ Establish more than 600 culturally appropriate jobs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island peoples in arts and culture enterprises.
- ✓ Training, on-the-job learning and professional development opportunities which support sustainability.
- ✓ Professional development, business skills and self-employment opportunities for artists.
- ✓ Development of essential skills and capabilities related to employment in arts, culture and languages sectors, which contributes to growth in self-esteem and confidence, economic independence and employment pathways, particularly for young people.

BUILDING BLOCKS

COAG recognises that overcoming Indigenous disadvantage will require a sustained commitment from all levels of government to work together and with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, with major effort directed to seven action areas or ‘building blocks’. Arts and culture contribute to outcomes across six of these building blocks.

Performance indicators

Early childhood

Indigenous arts and culture pathways to Closing the Gap

- ✓ Support the maintenance and development of traditional Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, which contain natural protective and wellbeing factors such as kinship networks.
- ✓ Strengthen connections to language, culture and identity—protective factors that predict resilience in children.
- ✓ Provide opportunities to participate and engage with culture and develop a positive cultural identity, which are essential to the development of strong and resilient Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

Schooling

- ✓ Support Indigenous language use, which is associated with improved literacy, academic performance, school attendance, and educational attainment.
- ✓ Strengthen connections to language, culture and cultural identity and provide opportunities to participate in cultural activities—which are associated with higher rates of secondary school completion and the attainment of post-school qualifications.



Performance indicators	Indigenous arts and culture pathways to Closing the Gap
Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Improve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health outcomes by strengthening the cultural, social and emotional wellbeing of whole communities. ✓ Ensure better physical and mental health outcomes by increasing attachment to culture, participation in cultural activities and use of Indigenous languages. ✓ Promote increased health and wellbeing by increasing individual and household income through sales of artworks.
Economic participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Support culturally appropriate, viable and established Indigenous-owned enterprises which generate economic activity, builds a cultural economy and provides economic, employment, social and cultural benefits to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities. ✓ Provide opportunities for artists to maintain, develop and extend their professional art practice. ✓ Provide professional development and training for Indigenous arts and culture workers. ✓ Provide opportunities to engage with the mainstream economy and generate commercial income. ✓ Support higher rates of employment through a strong attachment to culture, use of Indigenous languages and participation in cultural activities.
Safe communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Provide opportunities to participate in arts and culture activities to promote respect for traditional knowledge and culture, enhance social cohesion and encourage stronger and more resilient communities. ✓ Lower rates of alcohol abuse and arrest by supporting strong attachment to culture, use of Indigenous languages and participation in cultural activities.
Governance and leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Support strengthened governance and business management practices in Indigenous arts, culture and language enterprises and organisations through professional skills development projects focussing on business and governance skills, as well as exchange, residency and mentoring programs. ✓ Support the emergence of strong Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders by providing opportunities to lead Indigenous-owned cultural enterprises.





Malaluba Gumana painting a work titled *Dhatam*,
Buku-Larrnggay Mulka Centre, Arnhemland, Northern Territory.

Photo by Kade McDonald. © Buku-Larrnggay Mulka Centre