

# Cultural Ministers Council Communique

Friday, 10 October, 2014

A meeting of Arts and Cultural Ministers was held in Alice Springs on Friday 10 October 2014.

## Attendees

Northern Territory (Chair): The Hon Matthew Conlan MLA, Minister for Arts and Museums

Australian Government: Senator the Hon George Brandis QC, Minister for the Arts

Australian Capital Territory: Ms Yvette Berry MLA, Representing the Minister for the Arts

New South Wales: The Hon Troy Grant MP, Minister for the Arts

Queensland: The Hon Ian Walker MP, Minister for the Arts

South Australia: Mrs Leesa Vlahos MP, Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier

Tasmania: The Hon Dr Vanessa Goodwin MLC, Minister for the Arts

Victoria: The Hon Heidi Victoria MLA, Minister for the Arts

Western Australia: The Hon John Day MLA, Minister for Culture and the Arts

New Zealand: Ms Katherine Baxter, Deputy Chief Executive, Ministry for Culture and Heritage

## Observers

Mr Tony Grybowski, Chief Executive Officer, Australia Council

Mayor Damien Ryan, Mayor of Alice Springs Town Council, Australian Local Government Association Board Member

## Apologies

Ms Joy Burch MLA, Minister for the Arts, ACT

The Hon Jack Snelling, Minister for the Arts, SA

The Hon Christopher Finlayson, Minister for the Arts, Culture and Heritage, New Zealand

## Meeting summary

At this meeting Ministers:

Welcomed the release of the Australian Best Practice Guide to Collecting Cultural Material, which will assist museums, galleries, libraries and archives to navigate the ethical and legal requirements of acquiring works. The guide aims to ensure a consistent and comprehensive understanding by cultural institutions of their obligations under Australian legislation, international conventions and the agreed national best practice for due diligence. Additional transparency and accountability measures in the guide will reassure the Australian public that the items in public collections have been acquired in accordance with key principles and standards consistent with international best practice. At the meeting, Ministers agreed to promote this important resource to public collecting institutions in their own jurisdictions.

Noted the efforts of jurisdictions to ensure Australia's artistic landscape reflects and is inclusive of the lived experiences of our diverse community and released the National Arts and Disability Strategy Evaluation 2009–12. Ministers endorsed the evaluation's recommendations and priority areas of action as a framework for continued focus.

Acknowledged the importance of private sector support to underpin a vibrant arts sector. Ministers requested that officials identify opportunities to increase private giving and philanthropy. Ministers acknowledged the importance of encouraging a culture of giving to support independent artists and arts organisations working across Australia.

Agreed to an updated policy framework for the Visual Arts and Crafts Strategy that supports a sustainable and dynamic contemporary visual arts sector. The framework will be implemented from 2015–16 to align the strategy with current priorities, streamline processes and simplify roles and responsibilities. Jurisdictions have agreed to work together with the Australian Government on the detailed implementation of the strategy.

Endorsed work to secure the continued collection of core cultural data, which will support national cultural statistical collections from 2015–16. Ministers also noted progress by the Western Australian Government in measuring the public value of the arts through the CultureCounts system. Over the next 12 months, Western Australia will be working with its funded organisations throughout the state to roll out the use of CultureCounts through its Public Value Pilot.

Ministers noted the establishment of the national review of opera in Australia, announced by engagement with audiences and financial positions of Opera Australia, the State Opera of South Australia, the West Australian Opera and Opera Queensland. The National Opera Review Panel is being chaired by Dr Helen Nugent AO. The panel expects to undertake public consultation in the near future.