

MEDIA RELEASE

COMMUNIQUE

A meeting of Arts and Cultural Ministers was held in Tasmania today, Friday 12 April 2013.

Attendees

Tasmania: (Chair)

The Hon Lara Giddings MP
Premier and Minister for the Arts

Australian Government

The Hon Tony Burke MP
Minister for the Arts
The Hon Michael Danby MP
Parliamentary Secretary for the Arts

Australian Capital Territory

Ms Joy Burch MLA
Minister for the Arts

New South Wales

The Hon George Souris MP
Minister for the Arts

Northern Territory

The Hon Matthew Conlan MLA
Minister for Arts and Museums

Queensland

The Hon Ian Walker MP
Minister for the Arts

South Australia

The Hon Chloë Fox MP
Minister Assisting the Minister for the Arts

Victoria

The Hon Heidi Victoria MP
Minister for the Arts

Observers

Mayor Barry Easther

Board of Directors, Australian Local Government Association and President, Australian Local Government Association of Tasmania

Mr Josh Thompson

Policy Advisor, Australian Local Government Association

Apologies

New Zealand

The Hon Chris Finlayson
Minister for the Arts

South Australia

The Hon Jay Weatherill MP
Premier and Minister for the Arts

Western Australia

The Hon John Day MLA
Minister for Culture and the Arts

Meeting Summary

At this meeting, the Ministers:

- Noted and welcomed the release of ***Creative Australia – the National Cultural Policy***.
- Signed the first **National Arts and Culture Accord**, committing to greater collaboration between all levels of government and agreed to identify key areas of joint government effort to be detailed in an initial triennial work plan which will be finalised by July 2013.
- Noted that the **Major Performing Arts Excellence Pool** will commence in 2013-14, with the Commonwealth, Victoria, South Australia, and the Australian Capital Territory committing funding with Tasmania and Western Australia committing funding for one year. Other jurisdictions will continue funding discussions as part of their budget processes.
- Agreed to work together to maximise the impact of **Australia’s international cultural diplomacy** efforts, particularly in the context of the Asian Century White Paper.
- Noted progress on the development of the **Australian arts curriculum** for schools.
- Ministers endorsed and acknowledged the value of the **arts and health framework**; and agreed to champion the framework with Health Ministers in their jurisdictions.
- Noted progress on the review of the National Arts and Disability Strategy to be finalised in the second half of 2013.
- Jurisdictions welcomed the passage of the *Protection of Cultural Objects on Loan Act 2013* which was enacted on 14 March 2013.

Further details of the ministers’ discussions are attached.

Media contacts

Minister Giddings’ Office – Michael Steadman, Media Adviser, 03 6232 7065 Mobile 0438 631 399

Minister Burke’s Office – Joanna Vaughan, Media Adviser, 0417 354 185

CREATIVE AUSTRALIA – THE NATIONAL CULTURAL POLICY

Ministers welcomed the release of *Creative Australia – the National Cultural Policy* by the Australian Government on 13 March 2013. They reaffirmed the essential role arts and culture play in the life of every Australian and how creativity is central to Australia's economic social success.

Creative Australia delivers a 10-year vision for Australia's cultural sector, incorporating all aspects of arts, cultural heritage and the creative industries. It celebrates Australia's strong, diverse and inclusive culture and is available online at: <http://creativeaustralia.arts.gov.au>.

Minister Burke highlighted that *Creative Australia* sets a strategic framework for government investment in the arts, cultural heritage and creative industries and establishes a solid base for future growth and improved sustainability in the sector.

Ministers welcomed the Australian Government's investment of \$235 million over the next four years to drive implementation of *Creative Australia*, acknowledging the policy's commitment to deliver a modernised funding and support structure and grow stronger collaboration between all levels of government.

The reforms to the Australia Council and the formation of Creative Partnerships Australia are important elements of *Creative Australia*. Ministers noted the implementation of the Australia Council reforms, spearheaded by the introduction into Parliament of the Australia Council Bill 2013 and considered how they can continue to support the work of Creative Partnerships Australia to identify greater engagement opportunities.

NATIONAL ARTS AND CULTURE ACCORD

Ministers and Mayor Barry Easter representing the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) agreed and signed the first National Arts and Culture Accord, clarifying the roles and responsibilities of all governments in supporting arts, cultural heritage and creative industries. The Accord provides overarching principles for future and ongoing collaboration, a key objective of a modernised funding and support structure articulated in *Creative Australia*. Ministers also agreed to the development of an initial work plan to be completed by July 2013.

Ministers and the ALGA acknowledged that the Accord is a key pillar of the modernised funding and support structures outlined in *Creative Australia* and that it will drive greater collaboration between all levels of government on cross-jurisdictional issues faced by the arts and cultural sector.

Ministers agreed the Accord will be publicly released and that an annual report on progress against deliverables will be considered by ministers.

MAJOR PERFORMING ARTS EXCELLENCE POOL

Ministers noted that the Major Performing Arts Excellence Pool will commence in 2013-14, with the Commonwealth, Victoria, South Australia, and the Australian Capital Territory committing funding

with Tasmania and Western Australia committing funding for one year. Other jurisdictions will continue funding discussions as part of their budget processes.

Ministers noted that the Australia Council will commence discussions with major performing arts companies and relevant state and territory government funding partners around the eligibility criteria for the Major Performing Arts Excellence Pool.

INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

Ministers acknowledged the importance of arts and culture in delivering the objectives of the *Australia in the Asian Century White Paper* and discussed the role of all levels of government in developing and coordinating Australia's cultural diplomacy linkages with Asia.

Released by the Prime Minister on 28 October 2012, the White Paper is a roadmap to guide Australia to become a more prosperous and resilient nation, fully part of the region and open to the world. It is available online at: www.asiancentury.dpmc.gov.au.

Minister Burke advised ministers the Australian Government is revamping the Australia International Cultural Council (AICC), as recommended in the White Paper.

At the meeting, ministers agreed to work together and with the AICC to maximise the impact of Australia's cultural diplomacy efforts. Ministers also agreed to encourage artists and cultural institutions to engage in cultural exchange and build international audiences and networks, particularly in Asia.

ARTS AND EDUCATION

As identified in *Creative Australia*, a strong arts education at school is an essential skill for the 21st century.

At the meeting, ministers noted the progress made on the development of the *Australian Curriculum: The Arts* for schools and reaffirmed their commitment to this. Ministers acknowledged the work of jurisdictions in actively engaging with the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority to influence development of the arts curriculum.

Ministers welcomed arts education as a key priority in the National Arts and Culture Accord.

ARTS AND HEALTH

Ministers endorsed and acknowledged the value of the arts and health framework; and agreed to champion the framework with Health Ministers in their jurisdictions.

Ministers agreed that Victoria and South Australia would be the lead jurisdictions to progress the Arts and Health framework.

ARTS AND DISABILITY

Ministers noted progress made by all jurisdictions on the review of the National Arts and Disability Strategy, and acknowledged the engagement of the arts and disability sector. Ministers look forward to the completion of the review in the latter half of 2013.