

Cultural Ministers Council Communique

The 21st meeting of the Cultural Ministers Council (CMC) was held in Alice Springs today, Thursday 2 October 2008.

Northern Territory hosting and chairing the meeting: Ms Marion Scrymgour MLA, Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Arts and Museums

Australian Government: The Hon Peter Garrett AM MP, Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts

New South Wales: The Hon Virginia Judge MP, Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts, Representing the Hon Nathan Rees MP, Premier and Minister for the Arts

South Australia: The Hon John Hill MP, Minister Assisting the Premier in the Arts, Representing the Hon Mike Rann MP, Premier and Minister for the Arts

Victoria: Mr Rob Hudson MP, Parliamentary Secretary for the Arts, Representing the Hon Lynn Kosky MP, Minister for the Arts

Queensland: The Hon Bonny Barry MP, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for the Arts, representing the Hon Ron Welford MP, Minister for the Arts

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

Tasmania: The Hon Michelle O'Byrne MHA, Minister for the Environment, Parks, Heritage and the Arts

Jon Stanhope MLA, ACT Chief Minister and Minister for the Arts and Helen Clark, New Zealand Prime Minister and Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage, were unable to attend and were represented by officials.

Councillor Dick Gross represented Councillor Paul Bell, President, Australian Local Government Association.

Meeting Summary

At this meeting the Ministers discussed:

- A Cultural Ministers Council Strategy setting out opportunities for collaboration across jurisdictions over the next five to ten years.
- An Indigenous Contemporary Music Action Plan providing a broad framework for support of the sector across all jurisdictions.
- Opportunities for bilateral collaboration to implement the recommendations of the Senate Inquiry into Indigenous Visual Arts, with strong support for an Indigenous Art Commercial Code of Conduct for the industry.
- Progress on developing an arts and disability strategy and the release of a discussion paper.
- Arts education initiatives including the artists-in-residence program and music education in schools.
- The release of the publication *Crafting Regional Growth*, a guide for regional tourism managers to evaluate the impact of cultural tourism in local regions.
- The Terms of Reference for the Third Review of the Major Performing Arts Funding Model.

Ministers discussed a range of other issues including contemporary music development and the Collections Council of Australia's business goals over the next three years.

Outcomes of the Ministers' discussions are attached.

Indigenous Contemporary Music Action Plan

Recognising the benefits of a strong contemporary music industry for Indigenous people and communities, both urban and remote, the Ministers endorsed an Indigenous Contemporary Music Action Plan as a broad framework for support across all jurisdictions.

The plan outlines goals and actions across areas including infrastructure support, business skills and market development.

Ministers also agreed to provide \$78,000 for a pilot project to help emerging performers to produce their work to broadcast standard.

The plan acknowledges the effort and activity that is already taking place, builds on those activities that work well and addresses perceived areas of weakness. The action plan provides a framework within which the Commonwealth and each state and territory can assess existing programs, consider new directions, and identify new partners to support Indigenous contemporary music.

The Contemporary Music Action Plan has been produced by the Contemporary Music Development Working Group and is available at the [Meeting of Cultural Ministers website](#).

Indigenous Visual Arts

Ministers welcomed the Australian Government's update on implementation of the Australian Government response to the Senate Inquiry into Indigenous Visual Arts.

Key recommendations from the report emphasised the need for increased funding and infrastructure support for Indigenous art centres, as well as measures to scrutinise and improve business practices within the Indigenous visual arts sector.

Ministers noted that the Australian Government had already begun implementing the most pressing of recommendations to support art centres through its election commitment to boost funding to the National Arts and Craft Industry Support program by \$7.6 million over four years.

Ministers agreed to work together to identify opportunities for joint action in implementing agreed recommendations, noting that jurisdictions will review Indigenous program documentation and processes to ensure urban Indigenous visual artists were not disadvantaged by their language or objectives.

Indigenous Visual Arts Commercial Code of Conduct

The Australian Government reported on progress made by industry in developing the Indigenous Visual Arts Commercial Code of Conduct and confirmed it had provided funding to assist in finalising the Code. The Australia Council is working with the National Association of Visual Artists, which has coordinated industry work to develop the code, which is anticipated to be operational in 2009. The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission has provided advice throughout the Code's development.

Ministers stated that delays by the National Association of Visual Artists in the development of the Code are regrettable, and that the level of stakeholder consultation to date has been inadequate. Ministers asked the Australia Council to take immediate action to ensure that a Code document is available for distribution and consultation by the end of 2008.

Contemporary Music Development

Ministers were informed about the work of the Contemporary Music Development Working Group and the Australian Government's priorities for the contemporary music industry. A number of initiatives are underway, such as *Control*, a pilot project for emerging Australian music managers to develop business skills.

Ministers noted that the Australian Government was developing a Strategic Contemporary Music Industry Plan. Many of the issues identified as priorities by CMC will be covered by the industry plan including live music performance and export market development and industry presence in international markets. The plan will help to inform the development of Australian Government initiatives in contemporary music.

Education and the Arts

Ministers discussed progress of the artists-in-residence program, music education in schools, and the CMC/Ministerial Council for Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs Joint Implementation Working Group for Education and the Arts.

Ministers welcomed advice that the Australia Council had begun implementing the \$5.2 million artists-in-residence program announced in the 2008-09 Federal Budget. Funding is to be provided over four years for professional artists to participate as artists-in-residence in schools and as sessional staff in universities to improve young people's access to quality arts education programs. The Australia Council will deliver the funding in partnership with state and territory arts and education authorities, focusing on areas of need.

Ministers noted that the Australian Government education portfolio was continuing to deliver a number of national music education projects including *Music Count Us In* comprising simultaneous song performance and curriculum support, and *The Song Room* involving workshops and programs for students at risk of disengagement.

Developed as a partnership between CMC and the Ministerial Council for Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs, Ministers endorsed an arts education work plan that reflects the priority areas of:

- including arts in the national curriculum
- guiding partnerships between the arts and education sectors to help the professional development of teachers and artists and arts companies to effectively work in and with the education sector, and
- a research and information hub.

To support action to implement the key priority of the work plan, Ministers agreed to develop a national curriculum framework to establish effective partnerships between the arts and education sectors.

To ensure the work plan could progress quickly, Ministers committed \$40,000 to develop a framework for a national curriculum for the arts. The framework will be used as a basis for discussion with the Ministerial Council for Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs. The funding will be subject to the Ministerial Council for Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs matching this level of resources.

Arts and Disability

Ministers commended progress made on developing a National Arts and Disability Strategy. A CMC Working Group chaired by the Australian Government is coordinating consultation with all jurisdictions, the arts and disability sector and national peak arts and disability bodies to develop a National Arts and Disability Strategy. The working group includes representatives from all Australian jurisdictions.

This important initiative will feed into the National Disability Strategy and the social Inclusion Agenda.

Ministers noted that advice on priorities for the strategy had been received by the Health, Community and Disability Services Ministerial Council, and identified seven priority action areas for consideration including:

- providing support to arts organisations and agencies to develop and implement disability action plans or initiatives within disability action plans,
- promoting consistent approaches to disability awareness and education within the publicly funded arts sector, arts service providers, and community and arts industry organisations, and
- reviewing data collection across jurisdictions to determine participation in the arts for people with a disability.

Ministers were also updated on the outcomes of an audit of current arts and disability policy, programs and initiatives across all jurisdictions which had been undertaken to ensure that a national strategy would complement existing activities. The audit established that a consistent cross-government approach to disability and the arts was lacking at the strategic, policy and program levels.

Ministers approved the release of a discussion paper for public consultation on a National Arts and Disability Strategy.

Cultural Ministers Council Strategy

Ministers endorsed the Cultural Ministers Council Strategy which identifies opportunities for collaboration between jurisdictions against five key goals over the next five to ten years. These key goals are:

- *Enriching our citizens' lives* covering arts education to improve access and participation, and promoting Indigenous arts and culture.
- *Supporting vibrant cultural communities* covering cultural diversity.
- *Projecting Australia to the world* promoting Australian arts and culture internationally.
- *Building creative futures* including strategies for creativity and innovation and building the sustainability of the sector.
- *Transforming cultural spaces and assets* covering heritage assets and collections, planning and the built environment, digital and virtual environments, and arts and cultural infrastructure and facilities.

Ministers noted that each goal under the strategy would provide opportunities for collaborative actions to be explored.

Crafting Regional Growth

The Ministers approved the release of the Statistics Working Group cultural tourism guide *Crafting Regional Growth*. The guide can be used by regional tourism managers to evaluate the impact of cultural tourism in local regions. The guide is presented in a workshop format and steps users and participants through the techniques for gathering information to assess the economic value, tourism impact and benefit of cultural tourism in a destination.

Collections Council of Australia

Ministers agreed to a two-year funding framework for the Collections Council of Australia. Ministers asked that further work be undertaken to revise the business plan to provide a clear articulation of outcomes to be achieved over the period.

Next Meeting

Ministers expressed their appreciation to the Northern Territory for hosting and chairing the meeting. Ministers agreed that the next meeting of the Cultural Ministers Council would be chaired and hosted by the South Australian Government in October 2009.