



Australia Council Dance Action Plan 2006–2008

Achievements

summary

In 2003 the dance board released *Resourcing Dance: an analysis of the subsidised Australian dance sector* prepared by Positive Solutions. In response to *Resourcing Dance*, the dance board developed the *Dance Action Plan 2006-2008* which guided the dance board's investments over the two year period. This document is the final reporting against the action plan and details the achievements of 2006-2008.

In July 2008 the Australia Council for the Arts and Ausdance National launched *Dance Plan 2012*, a four year action plan for dance in Australia.

Final reporting

41 of the 43 key performance indicators (KPIs) within the plan were achieved, and many deliver against the recommendations from *Resourcing Dance*. Two KPIs have not been achieved: In goal 6, the dance related ARC linkage project did not come to fruition. In goal 1, key organisations companies did not maintain the number of new works produced in 2007. With increased Government funding from 2008 onwards, we expect to address this situation.

Highlights

This action plan has ensured that **dance work of the highest calibre was made** through 103 grants totalling \$2,525,199. Key dance organisations created 120 new works over the period and dance board funded work has received over 34 awards.

The **distribution of dance nationally and internationally** was increased through 66 artists and companies profiled and promoted at key performing arts markets. *Mobile States* toured five dance companies nationally and a new initiative, *roadwork*, was created to increase the regional presentation of dance in Australia. 20 new media and/or **dance on film** projects were funded and the *ABC of Dance for Film* was a major broadcast partnership between the ABC, Channel 4 and MJW Productions in the UK.

Community engagement with dance increased through Leigh Warren & Dancers; Restless Dance Company; Stompin Youth and Tracks all delivering community engagement projects. Two *Epic07* grants enabled Timothy Bishop to work with young people in Wollongong and Aimee Smith to work with Awesome Arts in WA. An **increase in dance audiences** was secured through the successful partnership with Sydney Festival on its *Movers & Shakers* season in 2008.

Investment in the creation of work increased in 2006-07 when the dance board budget restructure yielded a 6% increase in available funds in the open grants categories. Additional funds from Council and Government in 2007-2008, including an additional \$1,287,000 for dance key organisations, yielded a further 29% increase.



Australia Council Dance Action Plan 2006–2008 Achievements

Artist sustainability was enhanced through 30 skills development grants totalling \$249,632 and four fellowship grants totalling \$350,000. Nine young artists were mentored through the SPARK program and eight NT based artists received Independent Support funding. Three managing and producing services were created for independent artists in Queensland, Victoria and West Australia; and over \$550,000 was awarded to young & emerging artists. Marilyn Miller was appointed as the national Indigenous dance coordinator of Treading the Pathways an organisation created to support Indigenous contemporary dance artists throughout Australia. To increase earnings for artists the dance board in collaboration with the Australian Sports Commission and Ausdance national developed SCOPE (Securing Career Opportunities and Professional Employment) to provide career and education support services to 41 professional dance artists.

Company sustainability was enhanced through seven company development grants for projects to improve the business and strategic operations of specific companies. Force Majeure, Performance Space, the late Tanja Leidtke, Tracks, Restless, Luke George and Curious Works all received philanthropic funding through Artsupport.

The **dance board maximized its resources** through liaising, influencing and partnering with a number of key stakeholders to develop the artform. These included the MPAB, ATSIAB, Community Partnerships, Communications, Theatre board, State and Territory agencies, the Tertiary Dance Council, Australian Sports Commission, ABC, Channel 4, Arts Council England, Playing Australia and Sydney Festival.

Artistic quality of work and its creative rationale is of primary importance to the board. Diversity of practice and culture, particularly Indigenous cultural heritage, is an overarching objective across all our work.

For detail on Australia Council investment in dance between 2006 –2008 www.australiacouncil.gov.au search word <Annual Report>

For detail on dance programs www.australiacouncil.gov.au/dance

Australia Council Dance Action Plan 2006–2008

Achievements

GOAL 1 Ensure work of the highest artistic calibre gets made			
<p>Project grants: New Work, Fellowships</p> <p>Program Grants: one-year funding</p> <p>Key Organisations: multi-year funding</p> <p>Time_Place_Space: creative laboratory for hybrid performance practice</p> <p>ArtLab: 3 months research & creative development Laboratory (InterArts Office project)</p>	✓	The peer review system is upheld to ensure we support the best work	The peer review system was in place from 2006 to 2008.
	✓	Dance board provides support for choreographic development each year	From 2006, dance board direct support for choreographic development was given via 103 grants totalling \$2,525,199 including skills development, fellowships, creative development of new work and research and development organisations and special initiatives.
	✓	Examples of awards received / strong critical reviews for work funded by the dance board	<p>There are many national & international examples of critics' awards for Australian Dance works. For example dance board funded work has received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 x 2006 Australian Dance Awards • 2 x 2006 Helpmann Awards • 1 x 2006 Ruby Awards • 2 x 2006 Australian Cinematographer's Society SA Branch Awards • 11 x 2006 Green Room Awards • 3 x 2007 Helpmann Awards • 1 x 2007 Ruby Awards • 1 x 2007 Western Australian Dance Awards • 4 x 2007 Green Room awards • 2 x 2007 Drover Awards
	✓	At least one dance artist is involved in an ArtLab R&D project over the triennium	Hellen Sky awarded a 2007 ArtLab grant from the Inter-Arts Office to conduct research laboratories between art practitioners, performance and new media technologies.
	✓	At least one dance artist is chosen for each Time_Place_Space project	In 2006, T_P_S_5 (24 June – 9 July 2006) included Felicity Bott, Shaaron Boughen & Rakini Devi.

Overview of KPIs		
X	Not completed	2
✓	Completed	40
	TOTAL	43

Australia Council Dance Action Plan 2006–2008

Achievements

GOAL 2 Increase distribution nationally, internationally and through new forms of distribution		
<p>Project grants: New work</p> <p>Key Organisations: multi-year funding</p> <p>Dance International Market Development Strategy: including both an International Grants Program and market development and profiling activities</p> <p>Mobile States: a touring consortium initiated by the Australia Council's Theatre Board and coordinated by Performing Lines</p> <p>National Dance Audience Development Strategy: a partnership with the Audience and Market Development office</p> <p>Dance & moving image development</p>	x	<p>Companies supported through key organisations funding maintain number of new works produced annually</p> <p>The number of new works created by the 11 producing companies in 2007 was 56, compared to 64 by the 11 producing companies in 2006, compared to 57 by the 12 companies in the portfolio in 2005. These figures are based on data submitted to the key organisations unit as part of each company's reporting of actual activity for the previous calendar year.</p>
	√	<p>Profile & promote Australian dance at key international performing arts markets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adelaide, APAM, 2006 / 2008 New York, APAP, 2006-08 Tokyo Performing Arts Market, TPAM, 2006-8 Asian Arts Mart, 2007 Montreal, CINARS, 2006 / 2008 Mexico Gateway to the Americas <p>Association of Performing Arts Presenters Conference (APAP), New York, US 21-24 January 2006</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12 promoted artists and 3 in the "waiting in the wings" program. <p>19-23 January 2007:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9 supported delegates 5 emerging choreographers profiled 2 special presentations <p>11 - 15 January 2008:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 supported companies and artists <p>Australian Performing Arts Market (APAM), Adelaide, Australian 27 February – 3 March 2006</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8 spotlighted companies & 2 pitch session companies <p>25-29 February 2008</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9 spotlighted companies & 7 pitch session companies <p>Commerce Internationale Arts de la Scene (CINARS), Montreal, 12-18 November 2006</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 showcase performance <p>Tokyo Performing Arts Market (TPAM), Japan, 5-8 March 2007</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 supported delegate <p>Asian Arts Mart, Singapore, June 1-3 2007</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 showcases & 1 supported delegates
	√	<p>Maintain current promotion of dance on OzArts Online 2006-2008</p> <p>In 2006-2007 68 dance artists were featured on the site, which also features regular news about dance tours, awards & events. In 2008 the web-site was updated and relaunched; it currently features 45 dance artists.</p>

Australia Council Dance Action Plan 2006–2008 Achievements

	√	Promote and financially support Australian contemporary dance as part of <i>Undergrowth – Australian Arts UK 2005-06</i> and <i>legacy year 2007</i>	Undergrowth promoted Australian Dance work in the UK from 2005-2007 and provided \$270,880 in support to 8 different dancers and dance organisations.
	√	The International Grants Program funds a minimum of ten international presentations	Since the 2005-2006 financial year, the Dance International Market Development Strategy has supported 12 recipients and 4 multi-year initiatives to a total of \$ 531,618 .
	√	Mobile States tours at least two dance works over the triennium	Mobile States will coordinate 4 dance tours over the triennium including Tanja Liedtke's <i>Twelfth Floor</i> (06), Lucy Guerin Inc.'s <i>Love Me</i> (07), Dance North's <i>Underground</i> (08) and Dance North's <i>Roadkill</i> (09).
	√	Initiative developed to increase regional presentation of dance in Australia	The directors of theatre and dance brokered a new project with 16 regional presenters to tour adventurous theatre and dance to the regions. This project, working title <i>roadwork</i> , is being managed by Performing Lines. It will receive financial support from market development towards marketing initiatives and network meetings.
	√	Secured a minimum of one media arts partnership with external partner	ABC of Dance for Film was a major broadcast partnership between ABC, Channel 4 and MJW Productions in the UK brokered by the Australia Council. Two new Australian films were commissioned in 2007 and the series was transmitted on ABC in April 2008.
	√	Demonstrated support for new forms of distribution	Since 2006, the dance board has supported 20 new media and/or dance on film projects via the open category grant rounds and through initiatives to a total of \$569,263 .



Australia Council Dance Action Plan 2006–2008

Achievements

GOAL 3 Increase community engagement by increasing audiences and participation		
<p>Key Organisations: multi-year funding</p> <p>National Dance Audience Development Strategy: marketing programs, festival event focussing on Australian dance</p> <p>EPIC07: professional development opportunities for emerging producers, project managers, artists and arts workers working with and in communities aged up to 30 years. (partnership with the InterArts & Community Partnerships office)</p>	√	<p>Key organisations portfolio includes dance companies that deliver community engagement projects</p> <p>A number of key organisations deliver what could be considered 'community engagement' projects which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leigh Warren & Dancers: short works as part of <i>With the Body in Mind</i> (07) • Restless Dance Company: <i>Cross Roads</i> (06); Restless Central workshop program (06 and 07); <i>Rebel, Rebel</i> (07); <i>On the Edge Program</i> (07), <i>Growth Spurt</i> (07) and <i>Safe from Harm</i> (08). • Stompin Youth Dance: <i>Home</i> (06 and 07), <i>Back in the Lab</i> (06) and <i>Uncover This</i> (08). • Tracks Inc.: <i>Mr Big</i> (06); <i>Without Sea</i> (06), <i>Milpirri 2</i> (07) <i>You dance funny</i> (07) and <i>Struck</i> (08).
	√	<p>Major national initiative awarded to a major Australian Festival to produce a dance program that increases awareness of and increases audiences for Australian dance</p> <p>The third and final stage of the national dance audience development strategy – the major national initiative valued at \$200,000 was awarded to Sydney Festival for the 2008 Festival for the presentation of 8 Australian dance works. Over 16,000 people attended these performances. Valuable audience research and data was undertaken and is available on request.</p>
	√	<p>At least one EPIC grant is awarded to a program in the dance sector</p> <p>2 EPIC07 grants for dance activity to a total of \$84,956.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Merrigong Theatre Co. / Illawarra Performing Arts Centre to host Timothy Bishop • Awesome Arts to host Aimee Smith.



Australia Council Dance Action Plan 2006–2008

Achievements

GOAL 4 Increase investment in creation of work		
Project grants - New Work Key Performing Arts Organisations New Policy Proposal for greater Federal Government support EPIC07	√	<p>The dance board restructures its base budget to ensure all base funds are spent on published grant categories. Restructure to provide an increase of 5% in available funds in 2007 & 2008</p> <p>Dance board budget restructure for 2006-2007 yielded a 6% increase in available funds in the open grants categories. Additional funds from Council and Government in 2007-2008 yielded a 29% increase in available funds.</p>
	√	<p>Increased base level investment from the Federal Government</p> <p>The dance board received \$1,287,000 additional funding to its key organisations budget line as a result of new Government funding for the small to medium performing arts sector.</p>
	√	<p>An EPIC recipient produces one dance work across the triennium</p> <p>Two EPIC recipients have produced three dance works:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timothy Bishop - <i>Midan Naway</i> at Merrigong Theatre. • Aimee Smith - solo work showing at Chunky Move Studios and <i>Schreibstuck</i> for Strut

Australia Council Dance Action Plan 2006–2008

Achievements

GOAL 5 Enhance company / artists sustainability		
<p>Project grants – Fellowships; Skills and Artform Development</p> <p>Key Organisations: multi-year funding, business support programs</p> <p>Artsupport Australia: OzCo initiative to grow cultural philanthropy</p> <p>SPARK: national mentoring initiative managed by Youth Arts Queensland for artists aged up to 30 years</p> <p>Treading Pathways: Indigenous dance infrastructure. A partnership between ATSIA & Ausdance</p> <p>Independent Support Fund for Northern Territory Dance Artists: a strategic initiative in partnership with Ausdance NT and Arts NT to support and encourage the professional development of</p>	√	<p>Skills development grants awarded</p> <p>Since the 1 November 2005 closing date the Board has funded 30 skills development grants totalling \$249,632.</p>
	√	<p>Minimum of one fellowship awarded annually</p> <p>2006: 1 Fellowship awarded totalling \$80,000 (Sally Chance) 2007: 2 Fellowships awarded totalling \$180,000 (John McCormick and Julie-Anne Long) 2008: 1 Fellowship awarded totalling \$90,000 (Tony Yap)</p>
	√	<p>Business Uplift Initiative grant outcomes monitored and evaluated against original objectives.</p> <p>Ausdance National received \$50,000 for a 1st stage development of a marketable dance education model. Helen Cameron undertook research and made recommendations for the future of dance education in Primary schools.</p> <p>Restless Dance Co. received \$49,850 to generate more earned income. This project is complete and the company has have developed a fundraising and marketing plan.</p> <p>ADT received \$45,000 to employ a local PR company with a focus on Audience Development opportunities and to increase in-house focus on sponsorship opportunities. The project has been completed with mixed results.</p> <p>Tracks Inc. received \$50,000 to employ a marketing and development consultant and to utilize artists to animate communities into audiences. Both projects are completed with all targets achieved or exceeded.</p>
	√	<p>At least two key organisations to have received company development grants</p> <p>In 2006, 3 key organisations received company development grants - The Australian Choreographic Centre, ADT & Lucy Guerin Inc. All projects have been completed. In late 2007 Dancehouse received \$7,500 for development of a marketing plan and this project is still active.</p>



Australia Council Dance Action Plan 2006–2008 Achievements

<p>independent dancers in NT</p> <p>Young and emerging initiative: skills development, mentorship and project support for artists up to 30 years</p> <p>Fuel4Arts: Free of charge on-line marketing and skills development workshop developed by Community Partnerships and Market Development.</p> <p>MAPS: managing and producing services for selected theatre and dance groups are created in partnership with the theatre board and state funding bodies (added in February 2008).</p>	√	<p>Minimum of one dance organisation per annum in receipt of philanthropic funding through Artsupport Australia</p>	<p>2006: Force Majeure, Performance Space and Tanja Leidtke received support from the Keir Foundation.</p> <p>2007: Tracks received \$210,000 over three years from Rio Tinto for Tracks for <i>Milpirri 2</i> in Lajamanu.</p> <p>2008: Luke George received support from The Keir Foundation. Curious works received \$75,000 from Vodafone and Restless have received \$15,000 from Sydney Myer Fund.</p>
	√	<p>8 dance artists supported via SPARK initiative over the triennium</p>	<p>SPARK has supported the following 9 dance artists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2005-06: Imara Savage (mentored by Aku Kadogo), Jessyke Watson-Galbraith (mentored by Danielle Micich), Nicole Eddington (mentored by Julie Chenery) & Ryan Dillon (mentored by Morgan Lewis). • 2006-07: Keith Lim (mentored by Kate Champion), Deb Robertson (mentored by Tracie Mitchell) & Aimee Smith (mentored by Andrew Lake). • 2007-08: Alisdair Macindoe (mentored by Lucy Guerin), Amber Haines (mentored by Stephanie Lake) & Aisling Donovan (mentored by Sue Peacock).
	√	<p>National Indigenous coordinator appointed</p>	<p>Marilyn Miller appointed as the national Indigenous dance coordinator in 2007. Ausdance National has led this project since its inception in partnership with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander section.</p>
	√	<p>Support up to 3 artists per year as part of the independent support fund (ISF) for Northern Territory dance artists</p>	<p>2006: 3 artists supported by ISF for NT artists - Jenelle Saunders, Nic Nemple and Julia Gray (Sunameke).</p> <p>2007: 4 artists supported - Alex Jordan, Gary Lang, Mariaa Randall and Erwin Fennis</p> <p>2008: 1 artist supported - Sarah Calver (the other 2 artists TBC)</p>

Australia Council Dance Action Plan 2006–2008 Achievements

	√	Up to \$555,000 is awarded to young and emerging artists projects across the triennium	<p><u>2005/06</u> \$111,973 \$27,962</p> <p>Take Your Partner initiative Young & Emerging Skills artform Development grants</p> <p><u>2006/07</u> \$29,900 \$29,823 \$78,000 \$77,789</p> <p>Young & Emerging Skills Development grants Young & Emerging Skills Artform Development grants SPARK (2 year commitment) EPIC07</p> <p><u>2007/08</u> \$98,595 \$98,788</p> <p>Y & E New work (incl \$2,000 for Alison Currie) & Artform Development Young & Emerging Skills Development grants</p> <p>In total \$552,830 has been awarded to Young & Emerging artists across the triennium.</p>
	√	Ensure Fuel4Arts has dance specific content	Fuel4Arts content included 18 dance specific articles along with 71 searchable dance relevant items and a suite of much broader research and tools relevant to the dance sector.
	√	At least 2 managing and producing services (MAPS) are created in partnership with two state funding bodies.	In 2008, 3 managing and producing services were created – one in Perth in partnership with the Department of Culture and the Arts (Performing Lines), one in Melbourne in partnership with Arts Victoria (Strut and Fret) and one in Brisbane in partnership with Arts Queensland (Metro Arts and Brisbane Powerhouse).



Australia Council Dance Action Plan 2006–2008

Achievements

GOAL 6 Gain higher earnings for dance artists		
<p>Project grants: New work; Skills and Artform Development</p> <p>SCOPE for dancers: partnership with the Australia Sports commission and Ausdance National, career management and professional development support for dance artists.</p>	√	<p>Dance Board does not fund projects that do not comply with AWARD wages</p> <p>Applications that do not comply with AWARD wages and appropriate on-costs as outlined by the Media and Entertainment Arts Alliance (MEAA) are required to submit revised budgets as a condition of grant.</p>
	√	<p>SCOPE project collates research on dance artist career development available in 2006 & again in 2008</p> <p>Curtin University, in collaboration with WAAPA completed its research project A Dance Artists Career Development in Australia in January 2008.</p>
	√	<p>25 dancers enrol in SCOPE project and gain diversified and enhanced professional skills</p> <p>41 dancers in total entered the SCOPE program between 2007 and 2008.</p>

Australia Council Dance Action Plan 2006–2008

Achievements

GOAL 7 Maximise our resources			
Strategic use of Dance section human resources: liaison; influencing and partnership building	√	Secure opportunities for artform development through the major performing arts board	The major performing arts board provided \$6,038 for the Artistic Directors' meeting in September 2007 in partnership with Ausdance National.
	√	Joint meetings held with State, Territory agencies and Tertiary Dance Council to explore joint ways of working	State & Territory agencies annual dance meetings now in place, chaired by the director of dance. Meetings took place in January 2007 and January 2008. The director of dance attends the annual meeting of the tertiary dance council.
	√	Cultural Diversity Plan is implemented and provides data to inform long term planning in this area	The <i>Cultural Diversity Dance Policy</i> was approved by the Board in January 2008. The <i>Cultural Diversity Dance Action Plan</i> was approved at the July 2008 policy meeting.
	√	Communications plan is implemented	A communication framework plan was developed and discussed at the February 2006 Board meeting. In April 2008 the Communication plan was updated and implemented.
	√	Dance Board evaluation of the effectiveness and impact of Program grants by 2008	The Board undertook an evaluation of its grant categories in 2007, including consultation with key stakeholders in the sector. This resulted in a new framework for grants being endorsed at the board's meeting in September 2007 which is reflected in the 2008 funding guide.
	X	At least one dance related ARC Linkage partnership with the Australia Council	No supported partnership since November 2005.
	√	Minimum of 3 successful Council strategic applications for dance by 2008	Three successful applications have been made to Council. SCOPE received \$560,000 in 2006, ABC Dance4Film \$90,000 in 2007 and the major national initiative in audience development mark 2 received \$200,000 in 2008.
	√	All strategic applications to have partners	SCOPE is a partnership with the Australian Sports Commission and Ausdance National. The ABC Dance4Film is a partnership between ABC, Channel 4 and Arts Council England. The major national initiative mark 2 in 2008 was a partnership with Sydney Festival.



Australia Council Dance Action Plan 2006–2008 Achievements

	√	Dance funding received from at least one new Initiative led by Community Partnerships	EPIC07 (Emerging Producers in Community) was a partnership with Community Partnerships.
	√	Dance applications funded through Playing Australia	In 2006, 4 dance applications were funded through Playing Australia to a total of \$342,864 . In 2007, 2 applications totalling \$269,713 were supported. In 2008, 1 dance application received funding of \$42,671 . In summary, a total of 7 applications totalling \$655,248 .