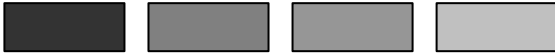


# Australia Council for the Arts ASSESSMENT MEETING REPORT



## Dance Board

APPLICATION CLOSING DATE  
1 November 2004

AUSTRALIA COUNCIL  
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THE INFORMATION IN THIS REPORT IS EMBARGOED FROM PUBLIC  
DISCUSSION UNTIL 2 March 2005



## February 2005

This report provides a context to the assessment of the applications submitted to the Dance Board on 1 November 2004. It provides some statistical analysis of the results of the grant round and more general comments made by the Board during the assessment of the applications.

This Assessment Meeting was held on 2-4 February 2005. **87 applications** were assessed in the New Work, Skills and Arts Development and Fellowships categories.

- **New Work:** this category supports the creation of new dance works. The Dance Board encourages artists to take time to develop a work; to proceed to each stage of its life cycle following a critical analysis of what has been accomplished. The number and nature of the stages in a work's life cycle will vary from project to project. Funding in this category is offered in two ways: either through a New Work Development only grant; or a New Work Development and Production grant.
- **Skills and Arts Development:** The purpose of this category is to foster excellence in dance and movement arts by providing professional development opportunities. The activity proposed should expand the creative abilities of artists and enhance their ability to sustain a professional practice rather than aim for a public performance. Funding in this category is offered in three ways: either through a Skills Development grant, Arts Development grant, or a Skills Development for young emerging artists.
- **Fellowships:** This category aims to provide outstanding individual artists with financial support to undertake a program of creative work or professional development for a period of two years. It is aimed at artists with a record of outstanding achievement or artists who demonstrate potential.

**Planned changes recently announced to the Australia Council's structure may impact this Board's grants categories and closing dates after 15 July 2005. Please regularly check this website or talk with staff throughout the year to keep up to date with the progress of the reorganisation and its implications for our grant programs for the second half of 2005.**

**For detail regarding the grant categories offered by the Dance Board in 2005, please see the 2005 Support for the Arts Handbook – also available on the Council's website [www.ozco.gov.au](http://www.ozco.gov.au)**



**Shane Carroll, Chair (NSW)** trained at The Australian Ballet School, and has danced with several companies including Nederlands Dans Theater (NDT) and the Sydney Dance Company. Shane has a wealth of experience in teaching and lecturing both in classical and contemporary dance. She regularly teaches for major companies across Australia and internationally.

**Simon Dow (WA)** Simon Dow is currently the Artistic Director of the West Australian Ballet. Prior to this he was the artistic director of the Milwaukee Ballet. Simon has been a principal dancer with many companies including the San Francisco Ballet, the Washington Ballet and The Australian Ballet. He has appeared frequently as a guest artist internationally and at prestigious festivals. He has choreographed ballets for many companies including the Washington Ballet, New York Festival Ballet and the Boston Ballet. Simon has taught extensively throughout Australia and overseas.

**Rebecca Hilton (Vic)** is a Melbourne based performer, teacher and choreographer. A Victorian College of the Arts Graduate, she has performed with many companies including Dance Exchange, Dance Works and Stephen Petronio Company. Rebecca was a founding member of the Lucy Guerin Dance Company and has appeared in the work of Margie Medlin. Her choreography has been presented in Australia, the U.S.A., South America and Europe.

**Jeff Meiners (SA)** has been involved in dance for 20 years in the UK, Sydney and now Adelaide teaching all ages and running programs with artists, teachers and community workers to support development in metropolitan and rural regions. Jeff is currently a lecturer at the University of South Australia's de Lissa Institute of Early Childhood and Family Studies.

**Jan Pinkerton (NSW)** is an independent dancer and choreographer. She has worked with many companies including Sydney Dance Company, the Australian Choreographic Ensemble, Bangarra Dance Theatre, One Extra Company and Theatre of Image.

Jan was not able to attend this meeting.

**Steven Richardson (VIC)** has worked for a number of arts festivals and other organisations and has a broad experience in the arts spanning more than twenty years as a creative producer and director in the small to medium arts company sector. Steven has worked for many Australian arts companies in a variety of creative roles from performer to producer.

**Suzan Williams (Qld)** has worked as a dancer, teacher and choreographer for a range of companies including Darc Swan Contemporary Dance Company and the Queensland Ballet. She formed her own school-touring company, PointeBlank Productions in 1996. Suzan retired from performing in 1999 and now works full-time with Brisbane-based company, ToadShow.



For this meeting the Board was assisted by two **Participating Advisers**:

**Helen Omand (SA)** is a freelance performer and choreographer as well as the artistic director of Helen Omand & Co- a project based company creating performance/video works. She worked as a choreographer based in Holland and Turkey and has worked in improvisation with Julia Hamilton, Katie Duck (NL), Andrew Morrish, Boiler Room, Is Theatre Ltd and Australian Dance Theatre.

**Rachael Whitworth (WA)** is a graduate of the Victorian College of the Arts in Dance. Rachael has worked in classical ballet, contemporary dance, physical theatre and puppetry. She has worked with numerous companies including WA Ballet, Buzz Dance Theatre, Spare Parts Puppet Theatre, Jigsaw Theatre Company

The following Dance staff attended this meeting:

Rosalind Richards	Manager
Kelly Marshall	Program Officer
Sandi Woo	Assistant Program Officer
Vanessa Rodd	Administrator
Linda Goodman	Administrative Assistant

In addition the following Council staff attended parts of the meeting:

- Ben Strout, Executive Director, Arts Development (AD)
- Kevin Golding, Finance and Reporting Analyst, (AD)



The Dance Board met from February 2-4 to assess 87 applications seeking support through the New Work, Skills and Arts Development and Fellowships grant categories. Despite the heightened competition from this substantial increase in applications compared with several recent rounds, it was good to note fresh interest in the Dance Board and for board members to see the scope of activity being developed across Australia.

I am particularly encouraged that the Board is contributing just over \$300,000 to the development and production of new work and that several of the 19 grants offered provide support for activity in regional areas and to youth and multicultural dance practice.

This was the first meeting for our newest member, Simon Dow, appointed last year. Simon has joined the Board at an interesting and challenging time and I thank him for mastering the assessment process and absorbing a veritable mound of background information so quickly. Thanks also to Helen Omand and Rachael Whitworth who enhanced the knowledge available to the Board making a vital contribution as our participating advisers.

In addition to the project grants assessed the Board also considered proposals from current triennial grant recipients to its Business Uplift initiative. The initiative is funded through the additional funds awarded to the Dance Board for 2005-06 and seeks to support companies to increase their income earning capacity. Improving the sustainability of the sector through strengthening the business of small to medium sized organisations is a key Council objective. Four of the proposals will be further developed for implementation this year.

The Board's monitoring of special projects such as the joint strategies (with Audience & Market Development) to develop international markets and to develop Australian audiences for dance, or projects for young and emerging artists is ongoing. Board members were pleased to learn about the strong interest shown in *Take Your Partner* by young artists and potential partners. *Take Your Partner* is a call for projects driven by young artists and based around a key partnership. With such an open premise we look forward to being surprised by the link-ups and ideas when the proposals arrive in early March.

A valuable opportunity to inform the Board's approach to issues raised in *Don't Give Up Your Day Job – An economic study of professional artists in Australia* (Throsby and Hollister, 2004), came in December when an international research project entitled the aDvANCE, culminated in a conference in Monaco. Having participated in the research I was pleased to be part of an Australian delegation of five attending the conference. The opportunity to reflect and discuss the research findings with delegates from fifteen other nations was extremely inspiring and thought provoking. The conference focused on exploring the constraints of the professional development of dance artists and the potential to extend and broaden their contribution to cultural life. Looking at such issues in the context of historical and current trends is important and I believe the time is right to achieve a great deal across the sector. Useful information can be found at [www.iotpd.org](http://www.iotpd.org)

Shane Carroll  
Chair



# OUTCOMES

PROGRAM TITLE	APPLICATIONS (Number)		SUCCESS %	APPLICATIONS (Amounts - \$)	
	RECEIVED	APPROVED		REQUESTED	APPROVED
<b>NEW WORK-total</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>18.5%</b>	<b>\$1,351,086</b>	<b>\$306,530</b>
Development only	33	6	18.2%	\$704,608	\$158,408
Development and Production	21	4	19%	\$646,478	\$148,122
<b>SKILLS AND ARTS DEVELOPMENT-total</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>27.6%</b>	<b>\$337,720</b>	<b>\$106,040</b>
Skills Development	10	2	20%	\$93,118	\$17,000
Skills Development for young emerging artists	8	2	25%	\$76,967	\$20,000
Arts Development	11	4	36%	\$167,635	\$69,040
FELLOWSHIPS*	4	1	25%	*\$320,000	*\$80,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>21.8%</b>	<b>\$2,008,806</b>	<b>\$492,570</b>

\*Includes total amount for 2-year Fellowships

No out-of-time applications were considered at the meeting.

**A full list of approved grants is attached.**

**It is also important to note the following companies have received Key Organisations funding for 2005 (amounts are per annum):**

#### TRIENNIAL GRANTS:

Ausdance National (Nat)	\$170,000
Australian Dance Theatre (SA)	\$232,000
Buzz Dance Theatre (WA)	\$120,000
Chunky Move (Vic)	\$100,000
Dance North (Qld)	\$180,000
Dance Works (Vic)	\$160,000
Expressions Dance Company (Qld)	\$120,000
Leigh Warren and Dancers (SA)	\$200,000
Restless Dance Company (SA)	\$65,000
The Australian Choreographic Centre (ACT)	\$160,000
Tracks (NT)	\$120,000

#### PROGRAM GRANTS:

Force Majeure (NSW)	\$80,000
Dancehouse (Vic)	\$125,000
Kage Physical Theatre (Vic)	\$65,000
Lucy Guerin Association Inc (Vic)	\$100,000
Stompin' Youth Dance Company (Tas)	\$69,482
TasDance (Tas)	\$65,000



**Application format:** Please do not use small font sizes in your application (less than 12-point is not recommended). An application that is difficult to read will not do well in a highly competitive process. You must also adhere to the strict page limit, as additional pages will not be circulated to the Board.

**Application content:** When providing the rationale for your project, it is important to give some insight into your movement practice and how your philosophies and creative processes will influence this particular project. This gives Board Members a context for your current proposal.

You are encouraged to use jargon-free language when describing your project. Be succinct in making your point to ensure that the Board have as much information about the project as possible. It is most important to describe your project directly and clearly. Some applicants find it useful to ask a peer to read their application before submission, to gain a sense of how well their ideas are being communicated. Often asking someone who doesn't know your practice/work can be helpful. They are a fresh eye, and can give you a sense of how a new reader will understand the information.

Be specific about your creative relationship choices. Your rationale should include information on why you have chosen to work with your collaborators.

**Selection criteria:** Please ensure that your application directly addresses the selection criteria for the grant category you have chosen. If Board Members cannot find information relating to the selection criteria it is unlikely that the application will be assessed highly enough to be supported.

**Video support material:** The first thirty minutes of the video support material you provide is made into compilation tapes for board members to view. It is important that the material you select is of the highest viewing quality possible, and relevant to your application and the project proposed. Please make good use of the *video form* in your application to provide context for the material selected, as the Board relies heavily on this part of the application when viewing your video. From this information they should be able to make a direct correlation between your support material and application. They should be able to find information on why this particular material was chosen. This was not the case in many instances in this and previous rounds.

Videos should not be highly edited. Quick cuts, montages etc do not allow the Board to gain a strong sense of the content.

Please note that the Dance Board does not currently accept the required support material in DVD format. If you send this material in anything other than VHS format, your application will be considered ineligible and not assessed. We are currently looking into ways to accept footage in this format, and are aiming towards being able to accept DVDs in the future.

**New Closing Dates:** The Dance Board's closing dates for 2005 have changed. The Dance Board's next closing date is **15 May 2005**. This closing date offers New Work and Presentation and Promotion grants.

Allow time before 15 May to read the *2005 Support for the Arts Handbook* and to seek advice from staff before finalising your application. Dance Staff can assist you to target your application, explain selection criteria or advise you on any questions you may have. Please note that staff cannot read your application before it is formally submitted.



# INITIATIVES AND PARTNERSHIPS

## **Take Your Partner Initiative**

*Take Your Partner* aims to provide flexible support for young and emerging dance artists and artists to forge a new relationship or build on an existing one through a specific project. The Dance Board is interested in supporting a wide variety of activity driven by young artists and artists' choices.

Young artists and artists aged up to and including 26 years and in the early stages of their career are invited to apply to this initiative, which has a closing date of 7 March 2005.

If you would like more information regarding this initiative, please contact Sandi Woo on 02 9215 9179.

## **Australia Council National Dance Audience Development Strategy**

This initiative is a collaboration between the Dance Board and the Audience and Market Development Division (AMD). We are pleased to advise that we have appointed leading marketing specialist Dr Peter Steidl as the consultant to undertake this stage. The first stage of this three stage Strategy was a series of workshops for small and medium size companies held in July 2004 with visiting audience development specialist, Ann Daly, from the USA.

The Strategy is one initial response to the Dance Board's analysis of the sector and is informed by the research conducted by Positive Solutions on the Board's behalf and presented as a final report '*Resourcing Dance – an analysis of the subsidised Australian dance sector*'. This report highlighted several issues and challenges for the dance sector in attracting and developing audiences. The Strategy also complements the Dance Board/AMD International Market Development Strategy.

The primary goal of Stage 2 is the development of long-term, integrated and sustainable marketing and audience development strategies for small to medium size contemporary dance companies and a number of key independent dance-artists.

To this end, Dr Steidl will undertake a process of working with selected contemporary Australian dance companies and independent dance-artists to map and analyse current audience

development and marketing practices, as well as future ambitions, aspirations and needs.

The intended outcome is a customised program of capability-building in audience and market development that will constitute Stage Three.

## **SPARK**

Through Youth Arts Queensland (YAQ), the Dance Board is supporting four young and emerging community dance artists and arts workers to participate in a national mentoring program. The program involves the young person being matched up with a more experienced person over a period of nine-months to gain practical experience working with a leading artist who is willing to share and exchange ideas, networks and experiences. Specifically, community dance artists and arts workers will work with communities on projects that give them an opportunity to tell their stories, build their creative skills and be active participants in the development of their culture.

The deadline for proposals is 7 March 2005. For more information, go to: <http://www.yaq.org.au/spark.cfm>

## **Theatre and Dance Board NESB Creative Producer Attachment**

The Dance and Theatre Boards are working in partnership with the Brisbane Festival to offer a secondment for an emerging NESB creative producer in 2005.

The secondment aims to develop and consolidate the skills and experience of an emerging producer by affording them the opportunity to establish new professional relationships learn programming and arts events management and gain producing skills.

The initiative aspires to address the lack of NESB producers in influential decision-making roles to ensure the ongoing representation and visibility of culturally diverse works in prominent arenas.

The Brisbane Festival will be the host organisation for this secondment. They will be advertising the position and undertaking the recruitment process in the coming months. They will then work with the Theatre and Dance Boards to select the successful candidate.



# STEPS IN THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS

## BEFORE THE MEETING

Staff check eligibility and register applications on Council's computer database. You will receive a letter acknowledging your application with an application number and staff contact for your reference. Staff analyse the statistical information provided by applicants to help Council measure the effectiveness of its grant programs. Staff prepare applications and support material for the Board assessment meeting. Applications are made into booklets and sent to Board members. Peers are invited to participate as advisers to the Board at the meeting bringing additional expertise and perspectives to the assessment process. Staff also check and manage any conflicts of interest that Board members and peers have with applications and study the applications in order to provide information to the Board as required (see below \*).

## AT THE MEETING

### ASSESSMENT

Board members assess your application against the published selection criteria. Board members may examine support material at the meeting or by prior arrangement.

Board members may also take into account information from other sources such as:

- their attendance at performances and other events;
- reports from members of the Register of Peers who may be asked to provide formal assessments of designated works;
- reviews, videos and recordings, referee reports and other material;
- any previous Australia Council grant acquittal reports and performance agreements you may have had; and
- communication with State and Territory agencies.

Boards may decide not to fund the application at the level requested. While your application may meet the stated selection criteria, this does not guarantee you a grant. The Australia Council receives many more applications than it can support. The success of your application must rest ultimately on the merits of your proposal against published criteria and in competition with all the other applications considered for funding.

## NOTIFICATION OF DECISION

All applicants will be notified of the Board's decision by mail during the month indicated in the Handbook and the application forms. Information about grant decisions will not be released over the phone.

## IF YOUR APPLICATION IS SUCCESSFUL

If your application is successful, you will receive a letter of agreement offering you a grant. This letter outlines the terms and conditions of the offer. Payment of a grant will not be made until you have accepted the conditions by signing and returning the letter of agreement.

## ACQUITTAL OF GRANTS

Acquittals are the artistic and financial reports that you must provide after completing your project. Acquittal reports enable the Council to fulfil its obligations of accountability as well as allowing us to learn about the success or otherwise of your project. These reports are a valuable way for you to contribute to the policy development work at the Australia Council.

*\*Staff do not make funding decisions. Staff provide information and advice to Council, Boards and advisory bodies to assist their determination of policy and assessment of grant applications. Staff also provide information to potential grant applicants and administer the Australia Council's grant programs to enable a simple, fair and efficient assessment of applications.*



Dance Board  
FELLOWSHIPS  
Round Id: 14260 Closing Date: 01-NOV-2004

<b>Client Name</b>	<b>Application Title</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Lucas, Brian	2 year program of activity to create and present two original full-length solo dance works.	QLD	\$80,000.00
<b>Grants this Round: 1</b>		<b>Amount Approved:</b>	<b>\$80,000.00</b>

Dance Board  
NEW WORK DEVELOPMENT AND PRODUCTION  
Round Id: 14261 Closing Date: 01-NOV-2004

<b>Client Name</b>	<b>Application Title</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Amount</b>
De Quincey Company Limited	The development and production of a new work entitled 'A Dictionary of Atmosphere'	NSW	\$70,000.00
Lloyd, Joanna	The development and production of a new work entitled 'Linku' in collaboration with Japanese artists	VIC	\$20,000.00
STEPS Youth Dance Company Inc	The development & production of a new work entitled 'Check 1,2'	WA	\$29,322.00
Yumi Umiumare	The development and production of a new work entitled 'DasSHOKU Hora!!'	VIC	\$28,800.00
<b>Grants this Round: 4</b>		<b>Amount Approved:</b>	<b>\$148,122.00</b>



Dance Board  
NEW WORK DEVELOPMENT ONLY  
Round Id: 14262 Closing Date: 01-NOV-2004

<b>Client Name</b>	<b>Application Title</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Balletlab Association Inc	Creative development of a new work entitled 'Origami/Ikebana'.	VIC	\$40,000.00
Cursio, Natalie	Creative Development of 8 new short dance works by mid career choreographers with 4 dancers.	VIC	\$19,416.00
Liedtke, Tanja	Final stage of creative development of a new work entitled 'Twelfth Floor'.	SA	\$18,801.00
Sue Healey Company	The development and extension of a new dance film entitled 'In Time'.	NSW	\$32,200.00
Van Hout, Vicki	Creative development of a new work entitled 'Wirad'journi'	NSW	\$31,840.00
Warby, Roslyn	Creative development of a new work entitled 'SEED/draft'.	VIC	\$16,151.00
<b>Grants this Round: 6</b>		<b>Amount Approved:</b>	<b>\$158,408.00</b>

Dance Board  
SKILLS AND ARTS DEVELOPMENT ARTS DEVELOPMENT  
Round Id: 14263 Closing Date: 01-NOV-2004

<b>Client Name</b>	<b>Application Title</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Ausdance (NT)	To present an open air event consisting of a public showcase of local dance titled SHIFT..	NT	\$7,020.00
Kompany Kido	The delivery of dance workshops for community groups in Alice Springs culminating in a performance.	WA	\$26,270.00
Northern Rivers Performing Arts Inc	To deliver a program of dance development activities through NORPA Dance Action.	NSW	\$18,000.00
Writings on Dance Inc	To write and distribute two issues of the journal - #23 Local/Global and #24 Modern Masters	VIC	\$17,750.00
<b>Grants this Round: 4</b>		<b>Amount Approved:</b>	<b>\$69,040.00</b>



Dance Board  
 SKILLS AND ARTS DEVELOPMENT SKILLS DEVELOPMENT  
 Round Id: 14264 Closing Date: 01-NOV-2004

<b>Client Name</b>	<b>Application Title</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Channells, Philip	To undertake a nine week professional development period with Adam Benjamin and CandoCo Dance Company	SA	\$10,000.00
Katherine Cogill	To undertake professional development with Theatre de Complicite in London and S.O.I.T. in Brussels.	NSW	\$7,000.00
<b>Grants this Round: 2</b>		<b>Amount Approved:</b>	<b>\$17,000.00</b>

Dance Board  
 SKILLS AND ARTS DEVELOPMENT SKILLS DEVELOPMENT YOUNG AND EMERGING  
 Round Id: 14265 Closing Date: 01-NOV-2004

<b>Client Name</b>	<b>Application Title</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Leach, Paea	To undertake a residency with Emio Greco/PC Dance Company in Amsterdam, Europe.	WA	\$10,000.00
Stamp, Brooke	To undertake a period of professional development in New York City.	VIC	\$10,000.00
<b>Grants this Round: 2</b>		<b>Amount Approved:</b>	<b>\$20,000.00</b>
<b>Total Grants: 19</b>		<b>Total Amount Approved:</b>	<b>\$492,570.00</b>

