



Australian Government



**MAJOR PERFORMING ARTS BOARD**  
INFORMATION FOR COMPANIES  
30 MARCH 2005

Dear Colleagues:

The Major Performing Arts Board of the Australia Council met in Sydney on Monday 14 March.

The Board discussed a number of major issues. These included:

**Orchestras Review 2005**

The Board noted that the Review's report would be publicly released later on the day of the meeting, and copies were provided to Board members following its release.

**Future Planning Taskforce update**

The Board received a verbal report from the Chief executive Officer of the Australia Council, Jennifer Bott, who explained that since January the Council has been taking part in a range of forums and meetings to explain the planned changes and new directions for the organisation and to hear further opinions, especially in regard to the dissolution of the Community Cultural Development and New Media Arts Boards.

Following feedback from these sectors and the work of the recent Task Force workshops on Community Partnerships and New Media Arts, a final discussion paper was published on the Council's website on 23 February 2005 for further feedback by 31 March 2005. The Council will consider final recommendations regarding the reorganisation at its 6 April meeting in Hobart.

**Education and the arts**

The Board received an update on a number of initiatives aimed at strengthening the role of the arts in education. The Australia Council and DoCITA continue to liaise with the Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST) on a review into school music education; a review is underway of the roles of Australian National Academy of Music (ANAM) and the Australian Youth Orchestra, and their future directions; and at the Cultural Ministers Council (CMC) meeting on 19 February 2004, Ministers agreed to pursue a joint statement with the Ministerial Council for Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs (MCEETYA) recognising the importance of the relationship of the arts and education. The new Chair of CMC, Anna Bligh, is Queensland Minister for Education, as well as the Arts.

### **Consultancy on national performing arts touring**

The Board received a report on a Cultural Ministers Council (CMC) consultancy into current government support for performing arts touring across all jurisdictions. The consultancy, being managed by DoCITA, will develop a consistent framework for governments to consider in relation to future funding of performing arts touring. DoCITA anticipates that the consultant's final report will be available to the next CMC meeting mid-2005.

### **MPAB company appointments**

The Board noted that, since the November MPAB meeting, Mr Ollie Clarke had been named as Chair of the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra, and Mr Rainer Jozeps had been appointed as Chief Executive. Ms Bronwyn Eddinger had been appointed General Manager of Black Swan Theatre Company. Ms Eddinger moves to Perth from Wollongong, where she was Director, Illawarra Performing Arts Centre.

### **Sydney Dance Company**

Companies will be aware that there has been considerable press comment on the financial condition of the SDC. The MPAB had a detailed discussion on this matter and noted that there had been a constructive meeting with the Board of the company on 11 March. The MPAB noted that meetings were continuing with the Board and Management of the company with the intent of finding ways to stabilise its operations.

### **New Australian Stories**

The Board noted that a number of MPAB companies had submitted applications for New Australian Stories funding, and that applications closed 31 March 2005. The applications would be considered by a New Australian Stories committee in May, and the selected proposals would be confirmed and advised in June.

### **Draft December 2004 financial reports**

Preliminary (unaudited) financial reports for 2004 from the 29 MPAB companies indicated that twenty companies were projecting a surplus position and eight a deficit position at year-end. Twenty-two companies were projecting an improvement in their results against budget, with twelve projecting an improvement in excess of \$100,000.

### **Philanthropy workshops**

The Board noted that the first of four philanthropy workshops had been presented in Melbourne on 10 March, and that a total 56 company representatives had registered to attend the workshops in Melbourne, Sydney and Perth. The workshops are the result of the implementation of Recommendation 15.2.2 of the Major Performing Arts Inquiry, and are being presented on behalf of the MPAB by the Melbourne based philanthropy organisation *Philanthropy Squared*. The workshops mark the beginning of a three-stage philanthropy capability program in 2005 for MPAB companies. In the second stage, companies will be offered the opportunity of an audit of their philanthropy activities and capabilities (with the financial assistance of the MPAB). The third stage of the program comprises a philanthropy mentoring program being piloted in eight MPAB companies, under the direction of Artsupport Australia (the joint philanthropy initiative of the Australia Council and the Australian Business Arts Foundation).

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**E-marketing summit**

The MPAB approved the budget for a two-day E-Marketing summit, to be jointly presented by the MPAB and the Australia Council's Audience and Market Development Division in 2005. The Summit will be held in Adelaide on 26 and 27 May, and will be open to representatives of the MPAB companies and of the medium sized performing arts companies. Information on registrations for the summit will be issued to companies by the end of April.

**Future role of the MPAB**

The Board discussed options for the activities of the MPAB post implementation of the recommendations of the Major Performing Arts Inquiry. Among issues discussed were the importance of arts education, long term funding mechanisms, advocacy to governments and the positioning of the arts as an integral and valued part of Australian society. The Board asked that management develop a paper for its 24 June meeting incorporating the outcomes of that discussion.