



ASSESSMENT MEETING REPORT



ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER ARTS BOARD

APPLICATION CLOSING DATE
15 July 2003

AUSTRALIA COUNCIL
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THE INFORMATION IN THIS REPORT IS EMBARGOED FROM PUBLIC
DISCUSSION UNTIL 14 NOVEMBER 2003

ABOUT THIS REPORT

September 2003

This report provides a context to the assessment of the applications submitted to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Board Grants Committee on 15 July 2003. It provides some statistical analysis of the results of the grant round and more general comments made by the Committee during the assessment of the applications.

The Assessment Meeting was held on 17 - 19 September 2003. Applications were assessed in the New Work, Presentation and Promotion, Skills and Arts Development and Fellowships categories.

The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Policy (NATSIAP) is now integral to the Australia Council's policy and program delivery implementation. Within Council all applications with creative content and/or stated outcomes relating to Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander artists, communities or their activities are to provide letters of support from the relevant artists or communities. This move by Council has provided an even greater access for Indigenous artists to 'mainstream' artform/practice and other support programs offered by the Australia Council.

The Australia Council expects all applicants to familiarise themselves with the requirements and principles of NATSIAP and to state how issues of ownership, protocol and cultural appropriateness will be addressed in their applications. The Board encourages applications that are innovative, culturally appropriate, have strategic outcomes and promote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts at local, state, national and international levels.

ATTENDANCE

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Board Grants Committee in attendance was as follows:

Ray Kelly (Chair) - based in Newcastle and is the Director of the Awabakal Newcastle Aboriginal Co-op. He has a background in theatre and writing.

Leo Akee - based in the Torres Strait Islands and is a manager in the Queensland Dept. of Employment, Training and Industrial Relations.

Lenore Dembski - Manager at ATSIC Darwin and small business operator, specialising in the use of designs by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists.

Lafe Charlton - actor, director, project manager and youth arts co-ordinator. He is currently Director of the Aboriginal Centre for Performing Arts in Queensland

Greg Stubbs – musician, songwriter and performer. He was the manager and choreographer of the Maku Dance Group for 13 years but is currently with BCHSC, a small medical service.

The following ATSIAB Staff attended this meeting:

Cathy Craigie	Director
Darrell Sibosado	Program Officer
Gina Azurin	Administrator
Fleur Laurence	Administrative Assistant
Catherine Tysoe	Administrative Assistant

CHAIR'S COMMENTS

The Grants Assessment Committee of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Board met to assess seventy applications to the New Work, Presentation and Promotion, Skills and Arts Development and Fellowships categories. The Committee approved thirty-two applications.

Although the number of applications for this round was much smaller than the previous round it was noted that the standard of application submitted was much higher and therefore very competitive. The competition within all grants categories increases from year to year as the calibre and practices within Indigenous arts develops and refines. It was also noted that the number of applications from most states have decreased which is seen as a direct response to the Board's strategic direction.

I would like to assure all applicants that in assessing their applications the Committee adheres to a set of guidelines and criteria as directed by the ATSIAB Board.

I wish all applicants every success with their projects and look forward to regular updates on their progress.

Ray Kelly
Chair

OUTCOMES

PROGRAM TITLE	APPLICATIONS (Number)		SUCCESS %	APPLICATIONS (Amounts - \$)	
	RECEIVED	APPROVED		REQUESTED	APPROVED
NEW WORK	20	7	35%	704,935	73,530
PRESENTATION AND PROMOTION	23	13	57%	630,737	270,758
SKILLS AND ARTS DEVELOPMENT	19	10	53%	535,262	214,123
FELLOWSHIPS	8	2	25%	640,000	160,000
TOTAL	70	32	46%	2,510,934	718,411

It is also important to note the following:

**Organisations in receipt of Triennial Funding:
(for period 2004 to 2006)**

Ilbjerri Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Theatre Co-op	\$300,000
East Gippsland Aboriginal Arts Corporation	\$239,436
Association of Northern Kimberley & Arnhem Aboriginal Corp	\$210,000

**Organisations in receipt of one year funding:
(for period 2004)**

Magabala Books Aboriginal Corporation	\$ 90,000
Ananguku Arts & Cultural Aboriginal Corporation	\$ 90,000
Boomalli Aboriginal Artists Co-operative	\$ 90,000
Goolarri Media Enterprises Pty Ltd	\$ 30,000
Kurruru Indigenous Youth Performing Arts Inc.	\$ 50,000

**Organisations currently in receipt of Triennial funding:
(for period 2003 to 2005)**

Central Australian Aboriginal Media Association Music (NT)	\$225,000
Gadigal Information Service Aboriginal Corporation (NSW)	\$135,000
Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjat Womens Council (SA)	\$150,000
Yothu Yindi Foundation (NT)	\$150,000

Organisations currently in receipt of Program funding:

Ananguku Arts and Cultural Committee (SA)	\$ 50,000
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The 2003 Red Ochre Award recipient:

Jimmy Little (NSW)	\$ 50,000
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A full list of approved grants is attached.

FEEDBACK

- All applicants should ensure that they complete the application form in **BLACK INK** if they are handwriting their application forms.
 - All applicants must ensure that their budget request has been totalled correctly and the funds requested are easily identified.
 - Applicants should check that the start date coincides with the stated date on all ATSIAB application forms.
 - Please note that **all individual** applicants to the ATSIAB must provide their Confirmation of Identity provided by an organisations registered under the Aboriginal Councils and Associations Act 1976. This letter is to be on a letterhead and stamped with the organisation of identity when applicants submit their application.
 - All applicants must address the selection criteria and ensure that the proposed project provides quality assurance of project implementation.
 - Applicants should check how many times they have applied to the Australia Council before submitting their application and check the eligibility guidelines.
 - All applicants are to ensure that relevant support materials, as stated in the Handbook, must be submitted with their application.
- Successful applicants should ensure that they contact ATSIAB staff before you consider any significant changes to the project. This includes budget changes and personnel changes. These requests are to be made in writing to the Director of ATSIAB.
 - The Committee was impressed with the high standard of applications received in this round.
 - The Board has been actively supporting the implementation of key strategies. There has been a noticeable increase in the number of initiatives and special projects that were deemed to provide the highest level of appropriate service to the communities through efficient management and planning processes.
 - If you intend to apply to the ATSIAB please make sure you read the relevant sections of the 2003 Support for the Arts Handbook, as there have been a number of changes.

INITIATIVES AND PARTNERSHIPS

State Initiatives

The State Initiatives provide opportunities to develop partnerships with the relevant state/territory arts agencies, whilst taking a co-ordinated approach to support Indigenous arts. The following states and territory were the focus areas for this initiative:

- 2002-2003: Western Australia & Torres Strait Islands
- 2003-2004: Northern Territory & South Australia

Indigenous Regional Arts Development Fund, Torres Strait Islands (\$30,000).

This initiative provided support to artists, communities & organisations to undertake arts projects.

Regional & Indigenous Artists Program (\$30,000)

In partnership with Arts Western Australia, the initiative employed, employed an Indigenous Regional Skills Development Officer. The program was to improve employment & economic viability of Indigenous visual artists in WA. The focus areas are Mid-West, Goldfields-Esperance & Great Southern regions of WA.

Professional Development Initiatives South Australia (\$33,695)

In partnership with Arts South Australia, the initiative will give support to key focus areas in dance, theatre, visual arts & storytelling/writer centre.

Northern Territory Indigenous Performing Arts Scoping Project (\$50,000)

A partnership project between Arts NT, ATSIAB & Browns Mart performing arts program to employ a Project Officer to scope the NT Indigenous performing arts industry. The outcome will be a staged blueprint for the development of Indigenous performing arts sector throughout Northern Territory.

Artform Initiatives

ATSIAB identified artforms for strategic initiatives. This initiative provides opportunities to stimulate and invigorate activities and projects in those artforms.

Literature

2nd Honouring Words Indigenous Literature Tour (\$80,000) – International writers from Canada, New Zealand and Australia attended events in local areas In NSW, QLD, VIC, WA, ACT and NT. The 2004 tour will be hosted by New Zealand.

Manuscript Workshop (\$10,000) – is stage 2 from the Bundanon Residency where participating writers developed their work to manuscript stage.

New Media (\$30,000)

ATSIAB, in partnership with the New Media Arts Board provided support to 5 Indigenous New Media artists to attend the 2003 Garma Festival. ATSIAB also supported Michelle Blakeney to attend the Time Place Space 2 workshops, Jenny Fraser to attend the Banff Residence 'Communion' and Karen Mills to attend Visual arts/new media residence program with Banff in Canada.

Dance

Melbourne Festival: Indigenous choreographers (\$25,000)

ATSIAB supported five Indigenous choreographers to attend workshops, master class & performances as part of the 2003 Melbourne Festival.

Contemporary Music Strategy (\$130,000)

2003 is the 2nd year the 3-year strategy.

- Tamworth Country Music Festival, \$30,000.
- WOMEX 2003, Seville Spain
- Ebony Williams has been appointed the Indigenous Music Co-coordinator with AIR/MMF
- Mary Mumbler has been appointed as the Indigenous web co-coordinator with Australian Music Online (AMO)

STEPS IN THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS

BEFORE THE MEETING

Staff checks 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

A letter notifying you of the decision will be posted to you 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 offering you a grant. This letter of agreement 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 fulfill 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.*

INITIATIVES AND PARTNERSHIPS

2nd Meeting of Indigenous key organisations (\$30,000)

ATSIAB organised and convened the second meeting of Indigenous key organisations in June 2003. The meeting was attended by over 20 organisations from around Australia.

2003 Sydney Dreaming Festival (\$75,000)

The festival is an Indigenous celebration of Aboriginal art & culture. ATSIAB gave funding support for the artists & other costs to organise this significant event in November 2003.

One Sun, One Moon (\$35,000)

ATSIAB in partnership with the Visual Arts & Craft Board supported the production of Indigenous arts publication acknowledging the immense contribution Indigenous artists has made to Australian art & international art.

6th Women's Playwright conference (\$6,180)

ATSIAB supported Andrea James & Tammy Anderson to attend the conference.

Music Oz (\$25,000)

ATSIAB supported Music Oz Wollongong to employ an Indigenous Music Co-coordinator

Awesome Africa (\$30,000)

ATSIAB supported some of our top Indigenous artists to perform at the Awesome Africa Festival. Kerriane Cox & Pigram Brothers performed at the event.

Young & Emerging

Indigenous curator mentorship (\$25,000)

In partnership with Visual art & craft board have provided support to NSW Art Gallery & National Art Gallery for 2 young Indigenous people to be mentored by two of Australians top Indigenous curators, Brenda Croft and Hetti Perkins.

Special Projects

9th Festival of Pacific Arts (\$220,000)

Australia Council will host the Australian delegation to the 9th FOPA with an approximately 25-30 artists to be invited to participate within the various 2004 festival themes the FOPA organisers have identified for the festival.

2003 Garma Festival (\$20,000)

The Board assisted with organising the government agencies/dept co-ordination forum and the Indigenous Intellectual Property session on communal moral rights issue

- Rights Strategy
 - ATSIAB provided support to the Australian Arts Law Centre to employ an Indigenous Legal Officer and part time Indigenous Information Officer (\$109,057)
 - Cultural Minister Council (CMC) Intellectual Property Toolkit is currently being developed as a valuable resource for the arts.

GRANTS LIST

NEW WORK Applicant		Artform	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	STATE
ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAITS ISLANDER ARTS BOARD APPROVED GRANTS LIST CLOSING DATE 15 JULY 2003					
Sam Conway	Literature	To develop a children's picture book "Kumana & Malu Pulka go to Hospital"	\$7,000	QLD	
Vicki Couzens	Visual Arts	"mayapa karraparr yakeen", to create possum skin cloaks which reclaim the cultural heritage	\$20,000	VIC	
Kunajarray Artists Co-op of Nyirripi	Visual Arts	To create paintings, "Jarlu Patu Klalu Mardarni Jukurrpa Pijirrdi" strong in "Jukurrpa" (dreaming)	\$7,710	SA	
Orange Local Aboriginal Land Council	Visual Arts	"Drawn From the Land", the design and construction of large platypus design in Gosling Creek	\$11,850	NSW	
Queensland Arts Council	Literature	"Blow'im", to collaborate on the creative development phase	\$6,970	QLD	
Jacob Stengle	Visual Arts	To create art work for a book on "Ngarrindjeri Dreaming Stories"	\$10,000	SA	
Greg Tait	Music	To record an album of original material, "Greg Tait Recording Project"	\$10,000	WA	
TOTAL			\$73,530.		

GRANTS LIST

PRESENTATION & PROMOTION Applicant		Artform	ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAITS ISLANDER ARTS BOARD APPROVED GRANTS LIST CLOSING DATE 15 JULY 2003		
			PROJECT DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	STATE
Association of Independent Record labels Ltd	Music		"Australian Indigenous Stand – MIDEM 2004", France 2004	\$15,500	NSW
Mial Bingarape	Music		Recording a CD called "Ilan Talk"	\$24,000	QLD
Yolande Brown	Music		"I'm Lifting Out" – to record a CD featuring vocals and piano	\$11,065	QLD
Emma Councillor	Music		Emma Donovan to record and launch original CD titled CHANGES	\$25,000	NSW
James Edwards	Visual Arts		Edward James to present, promote and preserve his culture by exhibiting his works at regional galleries	\$12,500	QLD
Ricardo Idagi	Visual Arts and Craft		To exhibit two installations and mixed media titled Zogo – of Shells, Sharks and Shrines	\$24,480	VIC
Ilbjerri Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Theatre Co-op	Theatre		To present a production of "Rainbow's End" by Jane Harrison	\$30,000	VIC
Jessie Lloyd	Music		To record and market CD of original compositions	\$15,230	WA
National Exhibitions Touring Support (VIC)	Visual Arts		"Raka Award 2003", a NETS Victoria tour of work by contemporary Indigenous artists	\$20,820	VIC
Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Women's Council	Music		The Pitjantjatjara Choir to perform at the 2004 Adelaide Festival of Arts	\$20,000	NT

PRESENTATION & PROMOTION Applicant	Artform	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	STATE
Nokturnl	Music	To present and promote Nokturnl to the German market place	\$22,922.64	NT
Daniel Sultan	Music	To record CD called Still Standing	\$13,700	VIC
Whittlesea Country Music Festival	Music	To enable Indigenous performers to attend "Whittlesea Country Music Festival – taking off"	\$19,360	VIC
TOTAL			\$270,757.64	

GRANTS LIST

SKILLS & ARTS DEVELOPMENT Applicant	Artform	ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAITS ISLANDER ARTS BOARD APPROVED GRANTS LIST CLOSING DATE 15 JULY 2003 PROJECT DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	STATE
ORGANISATIONS				
Arilla Paper Mt Isa	Craft	Professional development –Indigenous Art Making with Paper	\$28,250	QLD
Ballarat and District Aboriginal Cooperative Ltd	Arts Administration	To employ a Community Arts Officer	\$15,800	VIC
Carclew Youth Arts Centre	Multi	“and prints” – to create an Indigenous youth arts network in SA	\$15,950	SA
Jukurrpa Aboriginal Corporation	Visual Arts	“Jukurrpa Emerging” – to re-establish the Jukurrpa Art Centre	\$10,000	NT
The Artists Foundation of Western Australia	Arts Administration	Regional Indigenous artists development in the mid-west and great southern regions of WA	\$20,000	WA
TOTAL			\$90,000	

GRANTS LIST

SKILLS & ARTS DEVELOPMENT Applicant	Artform	ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAITS ISLANDER ARTS BOARD APPROVED GRANTS LIST CLOSING DATE 15 JULY 2003 PROJECT DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	STATE
INDIVIDUAL Rachel Maza	Theatre	To undertake a mentorship program with Wesley Enoch for the Riverland production which will be presented at the Adelaide, Brisbane and Perth Festivals	\$18,400	VIC
Karen Mills	Visual Arts	To participate in international artist residency – “Common & Other Conservations”	\$7,322	NT
Jason Pitt	Multi	To create and perform, “INASMUCH”	\$49,000	NSW
Margaret Randall	Dance	“Seasons” – to collaborate, research and create contemporary dance	\$26,633	NSW
Vicki Van Hout	Dance	“Wirad’journi” – a dance workshop	\$22,768	NSW
TOTAL			\$124,123	

GRANTS LIST

FELLOWSHIPS				ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAITS ISLANDER ARTS BOARD APPROVED GRANTS LIST CLOSING DATE 15 JULY 2003	
Applicant	Artform	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	STATE	
Norma MacDonald	Visual Arts	Intensive technical research to create new work for exhibition	\$80,000	WA	
Djambawa Marawili	General Administration/ Visual Arts	To do workshops, cultural projects and eventually have an exhibition in 2005.	\$80,000	NT	
TOTAL			\$160,000		