



ASSESSMENT MEETING REPORT



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Board

APPLICATION CLOSING DATE
15 July 2006

AUSTRALIA COUNCIL
372 ELIZABETH STREET SURRY HILLS NSW 2010
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THE INFORMATION IN THIS REPORT IS EMBARGOED FROM PUBLIC
DISCUSSION UNTIL 7 NOVEMBER 2006

This report provides a context to the assessment of the grant applications submitted to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Board on 15th July 2006. It provides information on the results of the grant round and general comments made by the Board during the 3-6 October 2006 Board meeting.

GRANT CATEGORIES ASSESSED

NEW WORK

This category supports projects that assist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists, arts organisations or community organisations to create new work with an expected public outcome. Projects may be in any artform or combination of artforms. Examples are theatre productions of new work, writing for publication, song writing for recording or performance, or the creation of new works of art for exhibition.

PRESENTATION & PROMOTION

This category supports projects, which promote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists and their work regionally, internationally and internationally. This may be through publications, recordings, performances, exhibitions and international export. All applicants are encouraged to seek further funding support for the project from other sources.

SKILLS & ARTS DEVELOPMENT

The purpose of this category is to assist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists and arts organisations to develop ideas and skills, not necessarily with a public outcome. Applications might include mentorship programs involving the sharing of artistic and cultural skills and knowledge, support for arts workshops, professional development projects, conferences or seminars, management planning and development. All applicants are encouraged to seek further funding support for the project from other sources.

KEY ORGANISATIONS TRIENNIAL GRANTS

The purpose of a Key Organisations Triennial Grant is to support a limited number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts organisations to advance Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts in Australia. They must be outstanding organisations with a substantial record of achievement in their field. They must contribute substantially to the development or understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts in Australia and they must be able to demonstrate that triennial funding will increase their ability to achieve this during the period of funding.

PROGRAMS GRANT

The purpose of this category is to provide support for one year towards the costs of an organisation wishing to employ an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander artsworker or artist to organise, develop and initiate a program of arts activities in their community or region.

ATTENDANCE

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Board members in attendance at this meeting were:

Dr Chris Sarra (Chair) (QLD) - Director of the newly established Indigenous Education Leadership Institute. Prior to this Chris was the Principal of Cherbourg State School in which he developed and implemented highly innovative strategies to combat problems such as low results in literacy and numeracy. His academic research interests include Aboriginal identity within a contemporary society. Chris was named Suncorp Queensland of the Year in 2004. He is a NAIDOC and Deadly Award winner and Australian of the Year finalist in 2005.

Jennifer Martiniello (ACT) – an award winning writer, poet, academic and teacher. Jennifer has facilitated many cross-cultural arts projects bringing Indigenous and multicultural Australia together such as *Voices and Spaces: Indigenous and Multicultural Voices in Dialogue*, through the first national conference of the ACT Indigenous Writers Group.

Janina Harding (VIC) – teacher, artsworker. Janina is originally from the Torres Strait and currently works for the City of Melbourne as the Indigenous Arts Program Manager. Janina has also been an artistic associate with the Melbourne Festival and Indigenous resource manager for the Victorian College of the Arts, and has taught Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art and design at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology.

Lafe Charlton (QLD) – is a member of the Gooenpul people of North Stradbroke Island and is well known in the Brisbane arts industry as an Actor. Lafe has played a significant role in the development of Indigenous Arts in Queensland by facilitating many major and minor productions and projects over a 15-year period. In 1992-93 he was involved in the establishment of the Indigenous theatre company Kooemba Jdarra. Since May 2002 Lafe has been the Artistic Director/CEO of the Aboriginal Centre for the Performing Arts in Brisbane.

Brenda L Croft (ACT) – from the Gurindji nation in the Northern Territory is an artist, curator, lecturer and freelance writer. Since 2002 Brenda has been the Senior Curator of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art at the National Gallery of Australia. Prior to this Brenda was Curator of Indigenous Art at the Art Gallery of Western Australia (1999 - 2001). As an artist since the mid-1980s, Brenda's work is held in numerous public and private collections, and has been exhibited in major national and international exhibitions.

Terry Marawili (NT) – is a successful visual artist, community leader and administrator. He has won major art awards and is represented in most major Australian institutional collections and several important overseas public and private collections. Terry is a leader of the Madarrpa clan and a caretaker for the spiritual well being of his own and related clans. Terry is a Committee and Board Member of numerous organisations including Chairperson of Buku-

Larrnggay Mulka Centre 1994-2000 and Director of the Association of Northern and Kimberley Aboriginal Artists Association.

Rosie Barkus (TSI) - Rosie Barkus is a successful Textile Artist Designer, based on Thursday Island in the Torres Strait. Rosie began hand-printing textiles in 1986. Her main medium is Lino-Blok printing on quality fabrics. Rosie has been printing professionally since 1996, and participates in many mainstream and Indigenous art exhibitions throughout Australia and breaking through international exhibitions, as well as designing for local public art. Most of her inspiration comes from her culture, history of her area, and the beautiful marine environment that surrounds her. Her designs feature motifs from her Torres Strait Islander Culture, and are held in Galleries and Museum collections, such as the National Gallery of Australia; The National Maritime Museum, The Queensland Art Gallery; and The Powerhouse Museum, Sydney.

Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Arts staff in attendance were:

Lydia Miller	Executive Director
Mark Stapleton	Manager
Kerri McIlvenny	Senior Policy Officer
Chris Bonney	Program Officer
Sandra Cruse	Administrator
Michelle Wong	Assistant Program/Policy Officer
Michael Geia	Administration Assistant

CHAIR'S COMMENTS

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Board held their meeting in Sydney from 3-6 October 2006. The Board honoured the lives of those elders, artists and community leaders who passed away during 2006 and acknowledged their contribution to the community during their time with us.

The Board assessed a number of grant applications and considered a range of strategic initiatives. Some of the issues the Board would like to highlight include:

Parliamentary Inquiry into Australia's Indigenous visual arts and craft sector

The Board are currently considering the Australia Council response to the Parliamentary Inquiry into Australia's Indigenous visual arts and craft sector. The Inquiry is being run by the Senate Environment, Communications Information Technology and the Arts Committee. The Board encourages everyone to think about making a response to the Inquiry. More information is at this website:

http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/ecita_ctte/indigenous_arts/tor.htm

The Committee has invited written submissions from interested individuals and organisations, preferably in electronic form sent by email, to ecita.sen@aph.gov.au by **27 November 2006**.

Service delivery to Indigenous Australians

The Board is concerned that some non-Indigenous organisations continue to ask for funding simply to deliver their existing service to Indigenous Australians. Board members find it difficult to understand this when these organisations have responsibilities to provide a service to all Australians.

Statement on 'Confirmation of Identity' Eligibility Criteria

The Board were concerned about the high number of ineligible applications because they did not include a confirmation of identity. The Board agreed that the 'confirmation of identity' criteria is an essential requirement for all grant applications and that applications are ineligible if they are not submitted by the closing date with this confirmation. The Board reaffirmed the use of a definition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander identity that combines three elements: descent, identification and acceptance. An Aboriginal person or Torres Strait Islander is someone who is of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent, identifies as an Aboriginal person or Torres Strait Islander, and is accepted as such in the communities where he or she lives or comes from.

Review of the Program Grant Category

The Board has noticed over the years a lack of applications for this category. A review of the Program Category was undertaken and presented to the Board to ensure that opportunities are provided for Indigenous arts organisations to effectively service their constituency. At the meeting, the Board decided that the category will be changed from Programs Grant to Indigenous Artworkers Program Grant. The Indigenous Artworkers Program Grant is open to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts organisations only. .

Review of the Key Organisations Grant Category

The Board is reviewing the Key Organisations grant category and will consider whether there are better ways of providing this funding and if there are, what a new framework would look like.

The Board decided to make no major changes at this stage, but to prepare the ground for a major revision of its funding categories to be decided next year and come into effect in 2008.

In particular, the Board will decide on a new basis for triennial funding taking into account such matters as:

- the number of key organisations it can effectively support
- the most effective way to coordinate with other government agencies in supporting these organisations
- the role triennially-funded organisations can (and often do) play in supporting smaller companies, groups and artists.

The program will again be available in 2008

Nominate for the Board!

The Australia Council for the Arts invites Indigenous people in the arts to put up your hand to join the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Board or the Register of Peers. The Board make grant and policy decisions independently of government. The Board is wholly Indigenous and is made up of artists and community peers.

The Australia Council's decision-making process uses a register of peers from the arts sector. This register opens the decision making to a wider number of experts to make the decisions made strong and fair. These peers can get involved in decision making meetings with the Board or to provide reports on specific grant applications, performances, scripts, etc.

If you would like to be a member of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Board and contribute to the Board's work please visit www.ozco.gov.au/the_council/ or call (02) 9215 9121.

OUTCOMES

Program Title	Application (Number)		Success %	Application (Amounts - \$)	
	Received	Approved		Requested	Approved
NEW WORK - 2006/7	14	10	71.4%%	\$330,150	\$187,200
RED OCHRE AWARD 2006/7	7	1	14.3%	\$350,000	\$50,000
PRESENTATION & PROMOTION - 2006/7	7	6	85.73%	\$186,354	\$136,422
KEY ORGANISATIONS TRIENNIAL	6	5	83.3%%	\$2,025,768	\$842,867
SKILLS AND ARTS DEVELOPMENT INDIVIDUALS 2006/7	5	3	60.0%	\$134,423	\$51,423
SKILLS AND ARTS DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATIONS 2006/7	3	2	66.7%	\$64,118	\$55,250
Total	42	27		\$3,090,813	\$1,323,162

OUT OF TIME APPLICATIONS

Pamela Croft Travel to Holland and the USA to participate as Artists In Residence and to follow up with 2 promotion and marketing projects occurring the USA- Tour Zoeterwoude (Netherlands), Bellingham (USA) Atlanta (USA).

Amount: \$4,312.73

Mai Passy To participate and perform in the 3rd Melanesian Arts Festival, Suva Fiji

Amount: \$44,650.00

Karntawarra Walangari Exhibit in the Australian Pavilion at the Shanghai Art Fair

Amount: 15,800.00

Dan Henry Seaman Dan-Saltwater Songs: Indigenous Maritime Music from Tropical Australia

Amount: \$5,699.00

Herbert Wharton Promote my writing, secure publisher and translation in UK and France for use in Academic and Educational Syllabus

Amount: \$10,890.00

Total Amount Approved: \$81,351.73

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Board manages a range of strategic initiatives that provide opportunities for individuals, arts organisations and communities to claim, control and enhance their cultural inheritance. The Board recognises that the arts is a key element in the cultural, social and economic development of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The strategies currently managed by the Board are:

1. Commonwealth Visual Art and Craft strategy (CVAC) - Indigenous Art Centre Program

The Indigenous Art Centre Program is a 3-year initiative to assist Indigenous art centres to undertake projects that focus on the development of professional visual art and craft practice of the centre and its member artists. For further details, please read page 14 of the 'Grant List'

2. Showcasing the Best

An international strategy that will develop international markets for Indigenous arts and promote Indigenous artists. Current activity funded includes:

- Allocation of \$7,000 in strategic funds to a project providing support to Australia Council activities such as the distribution of the Australia Council publication about the Australian Indigenous Art Commission.
- Allocation of \$4,000 in strategic funds to costs associated with the inaugural national meeting of Indigenous curators 21 September 2006. The purpose of this meeting is multifaceted. Primarily the meeting and ensuing networking was to facilitate the professional development of emerging curators in Australia and the generational transfer of knowledge and experience.
- Allocation of \$6000 in strategic funds to a budget for costs associated with an international Indigenous curators initiative 2006. The initiative involves the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Division support for Indigenous curators to attend and participate in the Emerging and Established Curators program, which is an initiative implemented for the first time at the Venice Biennale 2005

3. The Other Side of the Coin

A strategy to protect and promote Indigenous cultural and intellectual property.

4. Artists in Work

An employment in the arts strategy to increase the participation of Indigenous people in the arts sector through employment opportunities such as traineeships, scholarships, employer incentives and general positions.

5. Treading the Pathways

A strategy that builds on the 'Creating Pathways' national dance forum in October 2005 which aims to increase the participation of Indigenous dancers in the industry. In partnership with the Dance Board and Ausdance National, a national Indigenous dance coordinator will be employed who will work with Indigenous dancers to bridge the gaps and create career opportunities.

6. Indigenous Songs, Music Bound

The Strategy will focus on the development of infrastructure through the appointment of three (3) Indigenous music coordinators over a two (2) year period in the music organisations-Abmusic (WA), Songlines (VIC) and AAPRA (National). In 2006/7-2007/8, the Strategy will focus on promotion and profiling of Indigenous musicians through establishing an Indigenous Music Market and Showcase initiative

7. Arts Yarn Up

The Board allocated \$60,000 to produce the high quality Indigenous arts magazine *Arts Yarn Up* in 2006/07. *Arts Yarn Up* showcases Indigenous Australian artists, projects, and events that have received support from the Board and other sections of the Australia Council.

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.*

GRANTS LIST

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Board
NEW WORK - 2006/7
Round Id: 14883 Closing Date: 15-JUL-2006

Client Name	Application Title	State	Amount
Black Image	Black Image 2006	QLD	\$18,400.00
Groote Eylandt & Bickerton Island Enterprises Aboriginal Corporation	Grass and Ochres	NT	\$9,560.00
Gumbanggirr Elders Choir: Nambucca Valley	Gumbanggirr Elders Choir	NSW	\$12,125.00
Kooemba Jdarra Aboriginal Corporation	The Mack	QLD	\$46,595.00
Kurruru Indigenous Youth Performing Arts Inc	Second to None	SA	\$27,174.00
Maralinga Tjukurpa	Maralinga Tjukurpa	SA	\$10,000.00
Melbourne Workers Theatre	Show Us Ya Tiddas	VIC	\$27,370.00
NSW Sorry Day Committee	Sorry Day Street Banners	NSW	\$3,550.00
Pfitzner Milika, Darryl	Ceremony of Meaning	SA	\$10,000.00
Wilomin Stories Reference Group	Wilomin stories regeneration project	WA	\$22,426.00
Grants this Round: 10		Amount Approved:	\$187,200.00

GRANTS LIST

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Board
PRESENTATION & PROMOTION - 2006/7
Round Id: 14882 Closing Date: 15-JUL-2006

Client Name	Application Title	State	Amount
Fogarty, Lionel	Produce a book, Mitti Mitti by Lionel Fogarty and produce an accompanying promotional DVD	QLD	\$30,500.00
Hunter, Ruby	Ruby's Story, Auckland Festival 2007	SA	\$5,862.00
Melbourne International Comedy Festival	Deadly Funny	VIC	\$30,000.00
Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory	Yalangbara - Art of the Djang'kawu publication	NT	\$39,200.00
Skinnyfish Music	Midem Promotional Activity	NT	\$10,860.00
Summers, Ronald	Ronnie's Story	TAS	\$20,000.00
Grants this Round: 6		Amount Approved:	\$136,422.00

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Board
SKILLS AND ARTS DEVELOPMENT INDIVIDUALS 2006/7
Round Id: 14881 Closing Date: 15-JUL-2006

Client Name	Application Title	State	Amount
Chadd, Lance	From Sand to Grass Granuals	WA	\$17,475.00
Pitt, Jason	Oi	NSW	\$29,500.00
Zaro, Aicey	Aicey Zaro Visual Art Residency	QLD	\$4,448.00
Grants this Round: 3		Amount Approved:	\$51,423.00

GRANTS LIST

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Board
SKILLS AND ARTS DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATIONS 2006/7
Round Id: 14880 Closing Date: 15-JUL-2006

Client Name	Application Title	State	Amount
Cherbourg Historical Precinct Group Incorporated	Cherbourg Precinct Artworks	QLD	\$35,100.00
Western Australian Music Industry Association	The Indigenous Contemporary Music Program	WA	\$20,150.00
Grants this Round: 2		Amount Approved:	\$55,250.00

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Board
RED OCHRE AWARD 2006/7
Round Id: 14884 Closing Date: 12-JUL-2006

Client Name	Application Title	State	Amount
TBA	2006 Red Ochre Award	TBA	\$50,000
Grants this Round: 1		Amount Approved:	\$50,000

GRANTS LIST

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Board

KEY ORGANISATIONS ATSI TRIENNIAL

Round Id: 14891 Closing Date: 15-JUL-2006

Client Name	Application Title	State	Amount
East Gippsland Aboriginal Arts Corporation	ATSIA Triennial 2007	VIC	\$83,607.00
Gadigal Information Service	ATSIA Triennial 2007-2008	NSW	\$143,360.00
Ilbijerri Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Theatre Co-op	ATSIA Triennial 2007-2008	VIC	\$209,510.00
Woomera Aboriginal Corporation	ATSIA Triennial 2007-2008	QLD	\$300,834.00
Yothu Yindi Foundation Aboriginal Corporation	ATSIA Triennial 2007-2008	NT	\$104,756.00
	Grants this Round: 5	Amount Approved:	\$842,067.00
	Total Grants: 27	Total Amount Approved:	\$1,322,362.00

GRANTS LIST

ATSIA INDIGENOUS ARTS CENTRES PROGRAM (CVAC)

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Board

Round Id: 15024 Closing Date: 15-JUL-2006

Client Name	Application Title	State	Amount
Boolarng Nangamai Aboriginal Art and Culture Studio Co-op	Tracking Boolarng Nangamai is a project to enhance and sustain community development/employ in arts.	NSW	\$23,752.00
Ilkurlka Aboriginal Corporation	Development of an integrated arts project data and archive program	WA	\$12,330.00
Mowanjum Artists Spirit of the Wandjina Aboriginal Corporation	The purchase of high quality Art materials for the new Mowanjum Spirit of the Wandjina Gallery	WA	\$20,000.00
Mungart Boodja Art Centre	Mungart Boodja Professional Development Program	WA	\$24,977.00
North Western QLD Cultural Heritage Community Council Aboriginal Corporation	Indigenous artists Initiative Support Scheme	QLD	\$22,800.00
Papunya Tjupi Art Centre	Papunya Tjupi: A New Beginning	NSW	\$25,000.00
Port Lincoln Aboriginal Community Council Inc.	A series of four workshops culminating in an exhibition	SA	\$10,600.00
Tangentyere Council Inc	Development of Tangentyere Artists website for promotion and sales of art works	NT	\$22,330.00
Tiwi Design Aboriginal Corporation Inc.	Maintain knowledge of tradional art & craft practice between generations through artist run worshops	NT	\$24,738.00
Tjala Arts	Governance, enterprise and business training program for artists and art centre Executive Committee	NT	\$23,000.00
Tjanpi Aboriginal Baskets	Business development and mentoring program for artists, staff and Sterring Committee	NT	\$24,000.00
Woomera Aboriginal Corporation	To hold painting workshops on Bentinck Island in preparation for exhibition of paintings in Canberra	QLD	\$20,000.00
Yaruman Art and Culture Aboriginal Corporation	Funding for good quality arts materials for artists use and funding towards the cost of freight	WA	\$17,026.00
Yirrkala Dhanbul Community Association	To reinvigorate and encourage wooden sculptural work in North East Arnhem land	NT	\$24,900.00
Grants this Round: 14		Amount Approved:	\$295,453.00