



ASSESSMENT MEETING REPORT



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Board

APPLICATION CLOSING DATE
15 November 2005

AUSTRALIA COUNCIL
372 ELIZABETH STREET SURRY HILLS NSW 2010
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THE INFORMATION IN THIS REPORT IS EMBARGOED
FROM PUBLIC DISCUSSION UNTIL 10 March 2006



ABOUT THIS REPORT

This report provides a context to the assessment of the applications submitted to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Board on 15th November 2005. It provides information on the results of the grant round and general comments made by the Board during the 13-14 February 2006 Board meeting.

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, nationally and internationally through publications, recordings, performances, exhibitions and international export. All applicants are encouraged to seek further funding support for the project from other sources.

Please note the following about two types of projects relevant to this category:

Grants for Recording Projects

For CD/DVD recording projects involving the writing, recording, production, manufacture, distribution and promotion, you may apply for up to 75 per cent of the cost of any aspect of the process, up to a maximum of \$10,000.

Grants for Overseas Projects

The Board expects overseas organisations that invite Indigenous artists to travel overseas to contribute materially to such projects.

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.

FELLOWSHIPS

This category provides financial support for two years to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists to enable them to undertake a major creative project or program in their artform.



ATTENDANCE

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Board members in attendance 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 Queenslander 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. She 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. She 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.

Gina Rings (SA) – dancer, choreographer and director. Gina has completed a traineeship with Bangarra Dance Theatre. She has choreographed works such as *Inma Wiru*, a production involving 25 traditional Inma dancers, has assisted in the creative development of *Unaipon*. Gina has also produced performances for Encounter 2000, Reconciliation Week and most recently *Petroglyphs*, a joint production from Adelaide's Leigh Warren and Dancers and Tandanya.

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 she 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.

She 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.

A highlight of Rosie's art career was to win the 2001 National 'Jaguar New Australian Designers of the Future' Award in association with Belle Magazine, Sydney. She was honoured by being the finalist in the Textile and Fabric Category. Jaguar Australia created the award with eight categories highlighting the importance of good design and the exceptional calibre of Australian design by recognizing outstanding young Australian Designers.

Presently her design 'Sugu' (meaning octopus) is featured in the Torres Strait Collection of self-stamped envelopes, which can be purchased at any Australia Post Office throughout Australia.

'Torres Strait Art has had little exposure compared to mainland Aboriginal culture, and I am proud to be part of a growing body of artists who are bringing our unique area into the national and international arena', says Rosie.



Participating Peers in attendance were:

Mark Bin Bakar (WA) - has dedicated his life to creating and promoting Indigenous arts, culture and media. He has been a musician, documentary director, a radio and television personality, festival producer and businessman. He is the director and inspiration behind an immensely popular weekly radio program, *The Mary G Show*. Mark was creative director of Goolarri Media Enterprises in Broome. He has spent 20 years recording Indigenous artists through his company *Abmusic* and produced a number of documentary and television programs, *Me & You* and *Peeping thru the Louvres*.

Liza-Mare Syron (NSW) - is a descendant from the Biripi people from Tuncurry (NSW). She is a graduate of the Victorian College of Arts (Acting) and the National Institute for Dramatic Art (Playwriting) with an MA in education from UTS. Winner of the 2005 ADS Philip Parsons award for Performance as Research, she has just completed a Masters of Creative Arts at Wollongong University. Her research area is Contemporary Indigenous Theatre. Since 1999 Liza-Mare has been the full time Theatre Coordinator at the Eora, College of Aboriginal Studies, Centre for Performing and Visual Arts in Redfern Sydney.

Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Arts staff in attendance were:

Lydia Miller	Executive Director
Mark Stapleton	Manager
Kerri McIlvenny	Senior Policy Officer
Catherine Timbrell	Acting Program Officer
Fleur Laurence	Administrator
Michelle Wong	Assistant Program/Policy Officer
Sandra Cruse	Acting Assistant Program/Policy Officer
Michael Geia	Administration Assistant



CHAIR'S COMMENTS

The Board welcomed Rosie Barkus to her first meeting of the Board. Rosie is the first female Torres Strait Island resident to be appointed to the Board.

The New Work and Skills and Arts Development – Individuals categories saw a diverse range of artforms being funded including Theatre, Literature, Dance, Music and Visual Arts.

A high proportion of applications received and funded in Presentation and Promotion, Skills and Arts Development Organisations and Fellowship categories were Visual Arts projects.

The majority of Presentation and Promotion grants funded were organisations with large budget requirements for festivals and large-scale exhibitions. The Board are looking to address the funding imbalance between individuals and organisations.

A strong number of mentorship programs were received and funded in the Skills and Arts Development category and less applications for artworkers salaries than in the past. A majority of these professional development mentorships were collaborations between Indigenous and non-Indigenous artists.

Board members were concerned that there was a lack of Indigenous artistic control in applications received by non-Indigenous organisations, particularly when it is expressly stated in the Grants Handbook. The Board emphasised greater involvement of Indigenous personnel in the development and planning stages of these projects. Projects that were seeking salaries for non-Indigenous personnel were not supported where long term benefits to the community were not evident.

Simplifying the current Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Arts application forms was encouraged by the Board to assist clients preparing their budgets.

The Board reminds, all applicants of the importance of including **all** of the required support material for each category. Many applicants do not reach the assessment stage of the process, as their applications have been deemed ineligible due to failure to provide all information required as outlined in the Australia Council's 2006 Support for the Arts Handbook.



OUTCOMES

Program Title	Application (Number) Received	Approved	Success %	Application (Amounts - \$) Requested	Approved
NEW WORK - 2005/6	26	8	30.8%	\$672,976	\$153,130
FELLOWSHIPS 2005/6	5	2	40.0%	\$400,000	\$160,000
PRESENTATION & PROMOTION - 2005/6	19	9	47.4%	\$649,916	\$225,165
SKILLS AND ARTS DEVELOPMENT - INDIVIDUALS - 2005/6	4	3	75.0%	\$129,151	\$49,151
SKILLS AND ARTS DEVELOPMENT - ORGANISATIONS - 2005/6	7	4	57.1%	\$194,506	\$86,745
Total	61	26		\$2,046,549	\$674,191

OUT OF TIME APPLICATIONS

The Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Arts Board received four applications for Out of Time Applications. Three applications were funded and include the following:

New Work

Brook Andrew	You've Always Wanted to be Black	\$13,370
Robyn Caughlan	'Waiting at the Gate'	\$20,000



- The Board discussed a number of trends and issues at the meeting.
- The Board noted that some applications do not articulate the degree to which the proposed activity involves Indigenous control, participation and support.
- Non-Indigenous organisations applying to the Board need to demonstrate clear evidence of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander control, participation and support throughout the project.
- By Indigenous control the Board is referring to areas such as governance, representation, management, decision-making and employment, which includes artistic, technical, administration and production.
- Examples of mechanisms which may provide Indigenous control include management committee, reference and steering committees, panels which make decisions or recommendations about commissioning, casting etc

- The Board will give priority to supporting Indigenous personnel in key positions in projects proposed in grant applications.
- The Board also requires applicants to use accepted industry standards for remuneration in proposed projects.
- The Board has decided to do some analysis of the distribution of funding to organisations and to individuals within the Skills and Arts development Category.
- The Board will also do some analysis and develop options around the funding of festivals. This is due in part to the substantial demand received from festival applicants in the last year.

INITIATIVES AND PARTNERSHIPS

The Board has fully allocated the strategic policy initiative budget for this financial year.



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
 FELLOWSHIPS 2005/6
 Round Id: 14701 Closing Date: 15-NOV-2005

Client Name	Application Title	State	Amount
Dowling, Julie	FELLOWSHIPS 2005/6	WA	\$80,000.00
Gudthaykudthay, Philip	FELLOWSHIPS 2005/6	NT	\$80,000.00
Grants this Round: 2		Amount Approved:	\$160,000.00

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Board
 NEW WORK - 2005/6
 Round Id: 14702 Closing Date: 15-NOV-2005

Client Name	Application Title	State	Amount
Black Ruby Productions Pty Ltd	'wurrbunj' (meaning to lament, to cry in Woiwurrung language) performed by the Black Arm Band	VIC	\$18,400.00
Burrigan, Jerome	Birrigan's Journey	NSW	\$1,800.00
Indigenous Youth Arts Committee	D'Flava	NT	\$18,100.00
McIvor, Roy	"Wanggaar Mathathinu" (Climbing Up Higher)	QLD	\$24,840.00
NSW Sorry Day Committee	Stolen Generation Multi-Media Exhibition: 'Our Past, Our Present, Our Future'	NSW	\$12,893.00
QPAT	Kite Theatre - Torres Strait Children's Project	QLD	\$36,622.00
Thomas, Jared	Calypso Summer	SA	\$10,000.00
Van Hout, Vicki	Wirad'journi	NSW	\$30,475.00
Grants this Round: 8		Amount Approved:	\$153,130.00



GRANTS LIST

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Board
PRESENTATION & PROMOTION - 2005/6
Round Id: 14703 Closing Date: 15-NOV-2005

Client Name	Application Title	State	Amount
Ambassadors Four	Journey Through Two Cultures	SA	\$19,600.00
CAAMA Music	IMAGE Touring	NT	\$50,000.00
Hall, Brenda	The T.A.L Project	QLD	\$10,000.00
Inner West Cultural Services	Walking the street 2006	NSW	\$17,500.00
National Gallery of Australia	Michael Riley: sights unseen	ACT	\$24,270.00
Ngaanyatjarra Council	New Art from the Ngaanyatjarra Lands publication	NT	\$16,418.00
Queensland Folk Federation Inc	The Dreaming Australia's International Indigenous Festival	QLD	\$50,000.00
Waugal Aboriginal Corporation	2006 NAIDOC Week Art and Culture exhibition	WA	\$6,400.00
Yothu Yindi Foundation Aboriginal Corporation	Garma Festival of Traditional Culture 2006	NT	\$30,977.00
Grants this Round: 9		Amount Approved:	\$225,165.00

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Board
SKILLS AND ARTS DEVELOPMENT - INDIVIDUALS - 2005/6
Round Id: 14704 Closing Date: 15-NOV-2005

Client Name	Application Title	State	Amount
Bonser, Perun	Leigh Warren Traineeship	NSW	\$9,667.00
Greenwood, Sandy	Atlantic Theatre Company Acting School Summer Intensive Acting Program	NSW	\$3,334.00
Prima Donna Design	Shiny Shiny Blak Bling	VIC	\$36,150.00
Grants this Round: 3		Amount Approved:	\$49,151.00



GRANTS LIST

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Board
SKILLS AND ARTS DEVELOPMENT - ORGANISATIONS - 2005/6
Round Id: 14705 Closing Date: 15-NOV-2005

Client Name	Application Title	State	Amount
Groote Eylandt & Bickerton Island Enterprises Aboriginal Corporation	Don't forget the old ways - Bring them back to life	NT	\$8,400.00
Music NT Inc	NT Indigenous Music Development Officer	NT	\$25,000.00
Reconciliation Unity Network Incorporated	"BLACK ARTREACH"	NSW	\$24,400.00
Tangentyere Council Inc	Hidden Valley Community centre Art Project	NT	\$28,945.00
Grants this Round: 4		Amount Approved:	\$86,745.00
Total Grants: 26		Total Amount Approved:	\$674,191.00

