

The Australia Council is the Australian Government's principal arts funding and advisory body. Its mission is to enrich the lives of Australians and their communities by supporting the creation and enjoyment of the arts.

The Australia Council cultivates Australia's creativity by investing in individuals and organisations working in Indigenous arts, community partnerships, culturally diverse and accessible arts, dance, media arts, literature, music, theatre and visual arts.

It supports the creation of original works, performances, publishing and exhibitions and builds capacity through skills development, cultural exchange and partnership opportunities. It invests in growing audiences and marketing the arts in Australia and abroad. It also develops research and cultural policy, advocacy for the arts and provides advice to government and industry.

The Australia Council is a statutory authority established under the *Australia Council Act 1975*. Led by a chairman appointed by the Governor-General on the advice of the Minister for the Arts and Sport, the members of the Council have expertise in the arts, public policy, law, corporate governance, administration, education, and financial and business management.

Australian arts and culture 2005-06

- > Size of the arts and cultural sector—\$12.8 billion
- > Number of people employed in the arts and cultural sector—300,000
- > Number of people involved in paid arts and cultural work—958,000
- > Increase in employment in arts and cultural occupations since 2000—13 per cent
- > Funding for arts and culture from the Australian Government—\$1.3 billion
- > Number of adult Australians who visit an art gallery each year—3.6 million
- > Number of adult Australians who attend the performing arts each year—7.8 million
- > Number of books sold by Australian book publishers each year—129 million

Australia Council 2005-06

- > Opening of the \$1.5 million Australian Indigenous Art Commission at the Musée du quai Branly in Paris
- > Announcement of 14 strategic initiatives worth \$6.6 million over three years
- > Announcement of second round recipients of New Australian Stories funding
- > Strengthened the major performing arts sector by implementing the Orchestras Review and developing recommendations for the Funding Model Review
- > Management of a further \$5.5 million from the Australian Government's Visual Arts and Craft Strategy
- > Continued progress in implementing future planning processes following the Arts Catalyst reorganisation
- > \$151.5 million invested in arts and arts organisations
- > 1911 grants made to artists and arts organisations
- > 4110 new artistic works created with Australia Council support
- > 3472 works exhibited, performed or written with Australia Council support
- > 8 million attendances at Australia Council supported arts events

www.ozco.gov.au

Copies of this Annual Report are available
for download at www.ozco.gov.au/annualreport/

Letter from the chairman	06
Message from the chief executive officer	07
Corporate overview	08
About the Australia Council	10
Organisational structure	13
Corporate governance	16
Committees	18
Members of the Council	20
Year in Review	26
New approaches to support	29
Strategic initiatives	33
Supporting the creativity of Australian artists	35
Supporting artists and arts companies	36
Taking Australian arts to the world	53
Strengthening giving to the arts	54
Enriching the lives of Australians and their communities	57
Building audiences and markets	58
Taking arts around the country	60
Building communities through the arts	61
Promoting the arts in education	65
Work environment	68
Funding analysis	76
Grants list	86
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Board	89
Dance Board	92
Inter-Arts Office	93
Literature Board	94
Major Performing Arts Board	99
Music Board	100
Theatre Board	104
Visual Arts Board	107
Key Organisations	110
Arts Development	110
Community Partnerships and Market Development	111
Government Initiatives	118
Australia Council Initiatives	121
Strategy	122
Marketing and Communication	123
Financial statements	124

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Senator the Hon Rod Kemp
Minister for the Arts and Sport
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister

I present to you the Annual Report of the Australia Council for 2005–06.

Under Section 9 of the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*, the members of the Council are responsible for the preparation and content of a Report of Operations in accordance with Orders issued by the Minister for Finance and Administration. The following Report of Operations was adopted by resolution of the Council on 14 September 2006.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Strong". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

James Strong AO
Chairman

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



The 2005–06 financial year saw the arts take significant strides forward at home and abroad, with the Australia Council playing a pivotal role in supporting individual artists and organisations and engaging more Australians with the arts.

The undoubted highlight of the Australia Council's year came at its end. The opening in June 2006 of the landmark Australian Indigenous Art Commission (AIAC) at the Musée du quai Branly in Paris represented a milestone in the global acceptance of Aboriginal art. More than 2500 square metres of artwork from eight artists – built into the very fabric of one of the Musée's buildings – are a permanent gift of Indigenous art to the world.

The Australian Government's investment of more than \$1 million in the AIAC represented one strand of \$151.5 million in support for the arts delivered through the Australia Council in 2005–06. Our grants, programs and initiatives fostered the creativity of Australia's artists and arts organisations. This report of operations outlines a selection of the important ways that we have brought Australian arts to life.

The past year has also seen some significant outcomes of the Australia Council's organisational restructure, begun in 2004. The announcement of 14 strategic initiatives worth \$6.6 million signified our change of focus to being a catalyst for creativity. We also made major progress to more effectively supporting community and new media arts.

The end of 2005–06 also saw the departure of David Gonski AO from the chairmanship of the organisation after four outstanding years at the helm. It has been an honour to work with David, who has been an inspiration and tireless champion for the arts in Australia.

This will also be my last Annual Report as chief executive officer, as I finish with the Australia Council in September 2006. I would like to pay tribute to the Council members, colleagues and staff with whom I have had the pleasure of working over the past almost eight years.

Jennifer Bott
Chief Executive Officer