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Other information supplemental to this report, including appendices, has been archived in the Australia Council library. To access this information, contact the Librarian: call 02 9215 9000 or 1800 226 912.

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Preface

The analysis

The objectives of this analysis are to gather and analyse information to provide:

- a clearer understanding of the subsidised dance sector in Australia
- a clearer understanding of the Australia Council's Dance Board's role and importance in the funding and policy landscape
- guidance to the Board to assist it in setting its priorities for expenditure and policy development over the next 3–5 years.

The sector

The infrastructure of the subsidised dance sector comprises primarily:

1. Funded companies
2. Independent choreographers and dancers
3. A small number of producers
4. The Ausdance network
5. Physical facilities—rehearsal and performance space

For this Analysis, combining data from the Australia Council with that from state and territory arts departments, a total of 58 funded dance companies have been identified.

Excluding the Major Performing Arts Board (MPAB) companies, the analysis includes 21 companies which enjoy sustained or regular funding from the Australia Council or a state government, supplemented by 32 companies which exist on a project basis—that is, they may be brought into existence temporarily to deliver specific projects.

Based on a combination of ABS figures and other sources, Professor David Throsby has estimated a total of approximately 1250 dancers and choreographers were practising professionals in Australia in 2002. There are likely to be a further 2500–3000 individuals employed as dance teachers.

Recommendations

The 25 recommendations are clustered in four themes:

1. Promoting individual talent
2. Maintaining a healthy dance ecology
3. Building audiences now and in the future
4. Encouraging cooperation and providing leadership

Many of the recommendations would require additional government funding. Detailed costings have not been prepared as part of this report; however, it is estimated that between \$3 million and \$5 million would be required from government sources to address the recommendations.

The report concludes with a commentary on the options which may be available if additional funding cannot be secured.