



ASSESSMENT MEETING REPORT



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Board

Keeping Culture Strong

APPLICATION CLOSING DATE
15 July 2007

AUSTRALIA COUNCIL
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**THE INFORMATION IN THIS REPORT IS EMBARGOED FROM PUBLIC
DISCUSSION UNTIL 21 November 2007**

The Assessment Report provides a context to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Board Assessment meeting held from the 9-13 October 2007 in Canberra to assess the applications received in the 15 July 2007 closing date.

The report provides information on the results of the grant round, general comments by the Board about the applications received and the assessment process.

The categories open on the 15 July 2007 include New Work, Presentation and Promotion, Skills and Arts Development, the Red Ochre Award and the new Indigenous Arts Worker's Program Grant.

Description of each category is as follows:

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 that promote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists and their work regionally, nationally 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.

RED OCHRE AWARD

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Board established the Red Ochre Award in 1993 to pay tribute to an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander artist who, throughout their lifetime, has made outstanding contributions to the recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts, at both national and international levels. This is an annual award of \$50,000.



INDIGENOUS ARTS WORKER'S PROGRAM GRANT

The Indigenous Arts Workers Program Grant category is open to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts organisations only. The category will provide funding for either the employment of an Indigenous arts worker and a program of activity or an Indigenous arts worker only.



CHAIR'S COMMENTS

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Board met in Canberra for the 15 July 2007 Assessment meeting. The site to hold the assessment was Canberra and was chosen to coincide with the National Indigenous Arts Reference Group meeting and the opening of the inaugural National Gallery of Australia's Triennial Exhibition: Culture Warriors on 13 October 2007. It was a pleasure to meet with the National Indigenous Arts Reference Group in Canberra and also to hear from our Key Organisations and Strategic Partners who were invited to the meeting. At this meeting the Board assessed applications to the Program Grant categories and noted the high calibre of applications.

The Board has noted that applicants are becoming increasingly aware of the need to provide letters of confirmation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander descent. However, the Board cannot stress enough the need for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to provide these letters, which is a requirement that was introduced by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Board in 1999. The Board introduced this essential requirement after a series of episodes of identity fraud involving non-Indigenous people purporting to be Indigenous and fraudulently obtaining funds from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Board through this deception, in one case, it was a deception that was perpetrated for several years without detection.

The emphasis on Indigenous organisations providing confirmation of identity is in recognition of the cultural authority of communities in determining cultural identity- and not Government or individuals who may know some-one socially but who are not of that particular nation, clan, moiety etc. It is recognised that the arbiters of cultural identity are those who have authority at the community level and more so of the particular group who assign identity to a person by virtue of their descent and acceptance of that person in a community.

The Board would like to stress that it acknowledges and supports the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to self determine their cultural life and make decisions, consult and negotiate to determine the cultural landscape.

The Board is also concerned that many non-Indigenous arts and cultural organisations and institutions have been placing applications in with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Board without adhering to Indigenous protocols. Non-Indigenous organisations applying for funding from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Arts Board need to show a greater commitment to their Indigenous constituency by ensuring that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are participating in the organisations governance, management and are employed.

Many non-Indigenous arts organisations need to think about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts as part of their programming and acknowledge that funding this is not necessarily the responsibility of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Boards but an issue of core funding.

ATTENDANCE

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Board are made up of members who are Ministerial Appointments. Members can only be of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent and who have a background in the arts, community development, education and business.

The current membership includes 6 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and includes a representative of the following States:



- Queensland
- New South Wales
- Victoria
- Tasmania
- ACT

Each member of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Board has a background as professional artists with the exception to the current Chair Dr Chris Sarra, who is highly regarded as one of Australia's leading Aboriginal academic and education leader.

The members include:

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.

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.

Jeanette James (TAS)- A traditional shell necklace stringer who has been handed down the tradition from her mother, Auntie Corrie Fullard, one of three (3) women elders regarded as senior custodians of the stringing tradition. Shell necklace stringing is a valued Palawa cultural tradition that has remained intact and continued without interruption since before white settlement; it is a tradition that is many thousands of years old. Jeanette James has been nationally recognised for her very fine artwork with a Telstra Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Award in 2000. She has exhibited in Darwin Museum and Art Gallery, Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery Launceston. Her work exists in private and public collections locally and nationally.

Tara June Winch (NSW)- is a young writer who at 24 year of age has received numerous accolades including Winner of the Maureen Donohue Award for QLD Young Writers Award (2003) Winner of the David Unaipon Award for Indigenous Writers (2004) with her writing appearing in Best Australian Stories 2005. In 2006, she released her first novel *Swallow the Air* receiving the 2006 Victorian Premier's Award for Indigenous Literature and short listing for The Age Book Of The Year Award for Fiction and the QLD Premiers Literary Award - Steel Rudd Short Story, with a commendation by the Kate Challis Raka Award. Appearances include, the Townsville Write Up North Festival, Brisbane Writers Festival, Melbourne Writers Festival, Canberra Readers and Writers Festival, Byron Bay Writers Festival, Sydney Writers Festival as well as the Voices on the Coast Youth Literature Festival and the Wordstorm Northern Territory Writers Festival.



Richard Frankland (VIC)- is one of Australia's most experienced Indigenous singer/song writer filmmakers. Born on the coast in South-West Victoria, Richard has worked as a soldier, fisherman, and Field Officer during the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody. His work on the Royal Commission lead to his appearance in the award winning Australian documentary *Who Killed Malcolm Smith*. In 1993 Richard co-wrote and directed his first documentary with John Foss titled *Songlines*. That same year they formed Golden Seahorse Productions. Since then Richard has written, directed and produced a wide range of video, documentary and film projects including the award winning *Who Killed Malcolm Smith, No Way To Forget, After Mabo* and *Harry's War*. Richard is also an acclaimed musician whose music features on the soundtracks to many of his films. In 1991 his first band Djaambi supported Prince on his Australian Tour. In 2001 Richard formed The Charcoal Club with Andy Baylor and recorded their debut CD titled *Meeting One*, which has been released through Taram Records. Richard has also written for and performed on stage. In 2002 he wrote and directed the award winning play *Conversations With The Dead*. In 2003 his stage show *An Evening With Richard Frankland* was performed at the Sydney Opera House. Since 1991 Richard has delivered a wide range of cross-cultural awareness speeches and workshops to community groups, business, government and educational institutions.

Brenda L Croft (ACT)- from the Gurindji Nation in the Northern Territory is an artists, 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 Arts at the Art Gallery of Western Australia (1999-2001). As an artist since the mid 1980's, Brenda's work is held in numerous public and private collections and has been exhibited in major national and international exhibitions.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts staff in attendance were:

| | |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|
| Lydia Miller | Executive Director |
| Mark Stapleton | Manager |
| Chris Bonney | Program Officer |
| Jade Christian | Assistant Program/ Policy Officer |

The current Board membership does not include a resident of Western Australia. The current board membership skills set also includes limited experience in the field of contemporary music.

The following people participated in the assessment meeting as a peer assessor:

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Michael Hutchinson | Contemporary Music |
|--------------------|--------------------|



OUTCOMES

| Program Title | Application (Number) | | Success % | Application (Amounts - \$) | |
|---|----------------------|-----------|-----------|----------------------------|------------------|
| | Received | Approved | | Requested | Approved |
| NEW WORK | 13 | 6 | 46.2% | \$347,196 | \$145,000 |
| RED OCHRE AWARD | 3 | 1 | 33.3% | \$150,000 | \$50,000 |
| PRESENTATION & PROMOTION | 10 | 7 | 70.0% | \$132,624 | \$73,724 |
| INDIGENOUS ARTS WORKER'S PROGRAM GRANT | 3 | 2 | 66.7% | \$126,467 | \$79,467 |
| SKILLS AND ARTS DEVELOPMENT INDIVIDUALS | 6 | 3 | 50.0% | \$127,774 | \$50,000 |
| SKILLS AND ARTS DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATIONS | 3 | 2 | 66.7% | \$120,475 | \$70,000 |
| Total | 38 | 21 | 55.3% | \$1,004,536 | \$468,191 |



This section provides general feedback on the grants received but does not individually highlight or mention individual grants. For individual grant feedback unsuccessful applicants are encouraged to contact the Programs team to discuss their individual applications.

The Board has been impressed with the high standard of applications received in the 15 July 2007 round and congratulates all successful applicants to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Board. The Board also encourages all unsuccessful applicants to think about reapplying in future grant rounds.

Centrelink

Artists need to consider the impact grants may make on their Centrelink entitlements and cannot take responsibility for a deduction in Centrelink payments. The Australia Council also cannot withhold any client funding information from Centrelink or the Australian Taxation Office. Centrelink has requested grant information about individual artists who have received grant funding. Professional artists need to know their taxation position, and advise Centrelink if requested.

Budgets

The Board has noted that applications must ensure that their budgets request has been totalled correctly and the funds requested are easily identified.

All applicants must address the selection criteria and ensure that the proposed projects, provides quality assurance of project implementation.

Acquittal Status

Applicants should check if they have any outstanding acquittals or if they are on D-Status. This will prevent their application being deemed ineligible.

Submitting Later Support Material

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Board does not accept any late support material. All applications need to have all support material attached as the Program staff cannot attach your support material to your application.

All future applicants will need to discuss their projects prior to applications being made to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Board. Many applications are deemed ineligible because they have not provided the correct information or they completed the wrong application form.

The Board encourages all applicants to consider applying to other Boards and Divisions of the Australia Council and their State Funding agency for partnership funding.

Acquittals are an essential part of the application process and finalises the completion of the project. Acquittals are a way in which the Australia Council accounts for public monies. The Board stresses the need for applicants to acquit their applications.



INITIATIVES AND STRATEGIES

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Board has undertaken many new strategies and initiatives that will strengthen the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts sector. The new strategies will increase Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participation, control and empower artists and their communities to *Keeping Culture Strong*. The Board welcomes the new Strategy Team members:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|
| Project Coordinator | Ebony William |
| Project Coordinator | Dennis Stokes |
| National Indigenous Music Coordinator | Fred Gesha |
| Project Officer | Airlie Bradley |

The Strategy team will be overseen by the Project Manager, Alex Doyle and they are responsible for the following strategic areas and partners:

Showcasing the Best (International):

- National Gallery of Australia
- Queensland Folk Federation – The Dreaming Festival
- Melbourne Workers Theatre
-

Artists in Work (*Employment*):

- Aboriginal Centre for the Performing Arts
- Contact Inc.
- Melbourne International Comedy Festival
- Ausdance NT
- Gadigal Information Services

Following the June meeting, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Division staff have met with all project partners who have significantly and enthusiastically developed implementation plans for each strategic project. The implementation plans have identified the required budget for the project and these contracted amounts are reflected in the table below.

| | Proposed Funding 2006/7 | Proposed Funding 2007/8 | TOTAL 2006/7 - 2007/8 (2 years) |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| SHOWCASING THE BEST (International) | | | |
| Dreaming Festival | \$85,000 | \$85,000 | \$170,000 |
| National Gallery of Australia | \$100,000 | \$100,000 | \$200,000 |
| Melbourne Workers Theatre | \$75,000 | \$75,000 | \$150,000 |
| ARTISTS IN WORK: (Employment in the Arts) | | | |
| ACPA | \$100,000 | \$100,000 | \$200,000 |
| Ausdance NT | \$100,000 | \$100,000 | \$200,000 |
| Melbourne Comedy Festival | \$65,000 | \$65,000 | \$130,000 |
| Contact | \$45,000 | \$45,000 | \$90,000 |
| Gadigal | \$45,000 | \$45,000 | \$90,000 |
| TOTAL | \$615,000 | \$615,000 | \$1.23m |



The Strategy Team will also oversee the *Celebrations* (Festivals) Strategy and the industry strategic initiatives: Music Bound, Treading the Pathways (Dance) and Books? Deadly! (Literature). Following a meeting in Darwin in August 2007, the Project Coordinator, Fred Gesha will provide an industry focus on the Music Bound strategic partners: Terrasphere (VIC); Goolarri Media (WA); Western Australian Music (WA); AbMusic (WA); APRA (National) and Songlines (VIC).

A consultation report to inform the future direction of *Celebrations* festival strategy was tabled at the October Board meeting. This report details the investigations and consultations with nine Indigenous festivals across Australia. The report identifies the realities of the current situation, gaps in capacity and future growth aspirations. The Report proposes criteria for identifying festivals of national significance.

The National Indigenous Arts Reference Group and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Board met the above strategic partners in Canberra from 12 and 13 October, along with representatives from key organisations. The group then attended the opening of the National Gallery of Australia's Triennial Exhibition: Culture Warriors.



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 on the Australia Council's website www.ozco.gov.au 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

Round Id: 15502 Closing Date: 15-JUL-2007

| Client Name | Application Title | State | Amount |
|--|---|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Coffs Harbour City Council | Bible Boxing Love | NSW | \$15,000.00 |
| Kurruru Indigenous Youth Performing Arts Inc | Of the Future | SA | \$49,305.00 |
| Maling, Paula | Casey's Many Homes | NSW | \$5,730.00 |
| Maza Sisters | To develop & create a new largely autobiographical cabaret/theatre piece (with music) | VIC | \$20,446.00 |
| Milroy, David | Swine River | WA | \$39,930.00 |
| Stengle, Jacob | Life of Milerum | SA | \$14,589.00 |
| Grants this Round: 6 | | Amount Approved: | \$145,000.00 |

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Board

SKILLS AND ARTS DEVELOPMENT INDIVIDUALS

Round Id: 15505 Closing Date: 15-JUL-2007

| Client Name | Application Title | State | Amount |
|-----------------------------|---|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Lena, Garth | Bugal Gunnah (good listening, good hearing, good understanding) | NSW | \$16,830.00 |
| Morrison, Kyle | Directing traineeship for Kyle Morrison | WA | \$28,170.00 |
| Strok, Benjamin | Sparred Away | VIC | \$5,000.00 |
| Grants this Round: 3 | | Amount Approved: | \$50,000.00 |



GRANTS LIST

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Board
 SKILLS AND ARTS DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATIONS
 Round Id: 15506 Closing Date: 15-JUL-2007

| Client Name | Application Title | State | Amount |
|---|---|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Arts OutWest Incorporated | Central West Aboriginal Dance & Performance project | NSW | \$31,900.00 |
| Corporation of the City of Port Augusta | Port Augusta Aboriginal Art Exhibition | SA | \$38,100.00 |
| Grants this Round: 2 | | Amount Approved: | \$70,000.00 |

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Board
 PRESENTATION & PROMOTION
 Round Id: 15503 Closing Date: 15-JUL-2007

| Client Name | Application Title | State | Amount |
|-----------------------------|---|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Buddy Knox | To record a professional quality CD with commercial viability entitled 'got da blues' | NSW | \$10,000.00 |
| Foster, Warren | Dreamtime 2008 | NSW | \$10,000.00 |
| Scott, Jason | Jason Lee Scott - My Life, My Story | NSW | \$15,000.00 |
| Stewart, Grant | Turtle and the Trade Winds | WA | \$4,200.00 |
| Street Warriors | Street Warriors National Tour | NSW | \$14,350.00 |
| The Benning Bros Band | The Little Black Book | NT | \$9,904.00 |
| Tjala Arts | A contribution towards new marketing collateral for Tjala Arts | SA | \$10,270.00 |
| Grants this Round: 7 | | Amount Approved: | \$73,724.00 |



GRANTS LIST

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Board
RED OCHRE AWARD
Round Id: 15508 Closing Date: 15-JUL-2007

| Client Name | Application Title | State | Amount |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Embargo | Red Ochre Award 2007 | TBA | \$50,000.00 |
| Grants this Round: 1 | | Amount Approved: | \$50,000.00 |

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Board
INDIGENOUS ARTS WORKER'S PROGRAM GRANT
Round Id: 15657 Closing Date: 15-JUL-2007

| Client Name | Application Title | State | Amount |
|--|--------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| Ananguku Arts & Cultural Aboriginal Corporation | Program Grant 2008 | SA | \$35,280.00 |
| Koorie Heritage Trust Inc | Program Grant 2008 | VIC | \$44,187.00 |
| Grants this Round: 2 | | Amount Approved: | \$79,467.00 |
| Total Grants: 21 | | Total Amount Approved: | \$468,191.00 |

