

12. Options in the event of static funding

In the event that Australia Council funding for the dance sector remained at current levels, a number of the actions recommended above would not be feasible. In those circumstances it is **recommended** that:

1. The Dance Board urgently review its commitment to supporting all 12 of the consistently-funded companies—this would appear to be unsustainable in the light of the financial decline of some of the companies, the overall reduction in paid attendances in recent years, and the range of other sectoral issues which need to be addressed. Funding fewer (and diverting resources to other strengthening or stabilising initiatives identified here) appears to be the only realistic option, but would also need to be accompanied by negotiating increased investment by the states and territories for those remaining. It is worth reiterating, however, that the states and territories have substantially enhanced their support for dance in recent years
2. The continuation of funding for the remaining companies be subject to the Board's normal evaluation procedures.

Some of the earlier recommendations would continue to stand, including:

- using policy drivers and ear-marked resources to encourage both MPAB companies and other funded dance companies to engage with independent practitioners and project-based companies
- the Dance Board adopting a proactive and strategic approach to supporting a small number of key practitioners for the long term, rather than focusing only on relatively short-term support
- the Dance Board and the Council considering ways in which the grant application process for individuals and project-based companies may be streamlined to reduce the burden on the applicant
- the Dance Board negotiating joint funding agreements with the states and territories for triennially-funded companies
- the Dance Board continuing to work in close liaison with AMD on the development of both domestic and international markets, and develop a jointly-approved medium-term audience development strategy for dance
- training initiatives resulting from the Small and Medium Performing Arts Review being harnessed to the benefit of both consistently-funded and project-based companies
- discussion being initiated between the Council/DCITA and federal and state education representatives on the means by which dance can be further integrated into the curriculum
- the Australia Council developing a medium-term Dance Action Plan which provides a framework for all the boards (including MPAB), in order to align support and maximise the impact of Council funding
- the Dance Board facilitating interaction between the Tertiary Dance Council, MPAB companies, and other funded dance companies.