



DESCRIPTION OF PURPOSE

The aim of these guidelines is to stimulate strategies and activities that encourage and support parents and children's engagement with the arts in a range of cultural and creative contexts. In 2000 the Australia Council for the Arts published a landmark research project, *Australians and the Arts* (Costantoura, 2000)¹, revealing that parental attitudes to the arts are a key determinant of children's engagement. The report found that 85% of Australians believe that "the arts should be an important part of the education of every kid" (Costantoura, 2000 p.286) yet "Australians cannot clearly see entry points to the arts" (p. 5). We know that parents and caregivers, as children's first teachers, have the most profound impact on learning habits and ongoing development. The guidelines mark a significant milestone in offering a set of principles for those working culturally with young children to assist in fostering deeper learning and developmental opportunities between institutions, artists, parents, caregivers and young children.



¹ Costantoura, P. (2000). *Australians and the arts*. Report to the Australia Council from Saatchi & Saatchi, Australia. Sydney: Australia Council.