

SUPPORTING ARTS ORGANISATIONS

The Australian arts sector is a broad and complex ecology comprising artists working independently and in groups with those who produce, present and promote the arts. Their creative endeavours are undertaken with arts companies of all sizes, festivals, publishers, producers, venues, and many other commercial and not for profit entities. The Council has a unique national leadership role which includes direct and indirect engagement with every facet of the sector. Charged with the role of champion and investor, the Council promotes artistic vibrancy, sustainability and excellence through support and strategic development of arts organisations.

Bringing a national perspective to the management of funding for arts organisations, the Council supports and manages the Major Performing Arts (MPA) funding framework and Visual Arts and Craft Strategy; manages funding relationships with the Key Organisations, which are some of Australia's leading small to medium companies; and supports arts organisations of all sizes through project grants, strategic national and international development initiatives, and a suite of capacity building activities.

This range of intersecting activities is designed to stimulate opportunities for artists and build audiences for their work. The Council's work includes:

- Supporting organisations to reflect on their artistic and cultural vibrancy
- Fostering excellence and the development of all areas of arts practice
- Generating national and international market development opportunities
- Encouraging new approaches to audience development, access and engagement
- Supporting pathways to international opportunities for Australian arts
- Building the leadership capacity and sustainability of organisations
- Managing the delivery and governance of Government frameworks
- Brokering partnerships and collaborations
- Strengthening sector knowledge, planning and forecasting through evidence based evaluation and data analysis.



Robyn Nevin (foreground), Eryn Jean Norvill, Paula Arundell (background)
in Sydney Theatre Company's *Suddenly Last Summer*, 2015.
Image credit: Brett Boardman

MAJOR PERFORMING ARTS COMPANIES

GRANT ALLOCATION: \$106.0 MILLION

Australia's Major Performing Arts (MPA) sector includes 28 leading performing arts companies in the fields of dance, theatre, circus, opera, orchestral and chamber music. They are an integral and vibrant part of the Australian arts ecology and play a significant role in the development of artists and audiences across Australia and overseas.

The MPA Framework is a unique aspect of the arts sector in Australia which is fundamental to the stability and sustainability of the MPA sector. The Council manages the funding of MPA companies in accordance with the *National Framework for Governments' Support of the Major Performing Arts Sector* in partnership with state governments.

The MPA companies receive funding to develop and present excellent works, and foster a vibrant and sustainable performing arts sector. In addition to core grants, a small allocation of funding supports the sector through strategic initiatives, company reviews and artistic development.

The Council plays an important leadership role in the management of the Framework, providing specialist services, strategic advice and support, and working closely with the state arts agencies. The Council closely monitors each MPA company against its agreed outcomes and performance indicators, which are reviewed annually with all government partners. The Board of the Australia Council has established an MPA Panel to assist with oversight of the Framework, and to provide advice on key issues. The Council considers the MPA results in a broader context of support to other areas of the sector, providing a critical national perspective on the health of each area of arts practice.

Audiences

In 2014, 3.9 million people attended a paid or unpaid performance, school activity or workshop across Australia presented by an MPA company. This includes over half a million school children and teachers attending performances and intensive workshops in schools. Companies continued to expand access to the arts in 2014, presenting over 5,000 performances across metro, regional and remote communities which reached more than 150,000 Australians.

Creating and presenting work

MPA companies are actively engaged in increasing artistic vibrancy through their programming and presentation. In 2014, the MPA companies delivered a 20% increase in new Australian works and productions. A significant number of new works in 2014 were the result of creative collaboration with small to medium companies and individual artists.

Employment and turnover

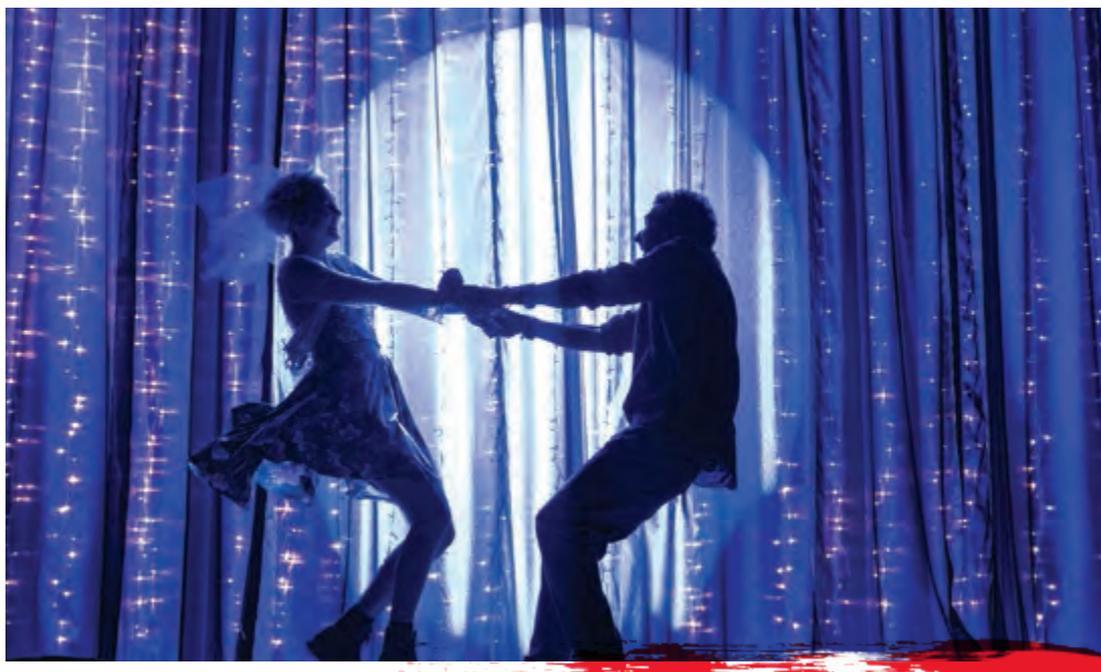
MPA companies employed more than 10,000 people in 2014, providing opportunities for more than 7,400 artists, creative and technical people, and a further 2,700 people employed in arts management administration.

In 2014, the MPA companies achieved a record turnover of \$509 million, a 7% increase compared to 2013 due to higher box office and private sector incomes. A total of \$342 million was earned through performances, private sector, interest earnings and other activities, with \$167 million or 33% from combined government support.

Overall the MPA companies leveraged a further \$2.04 for each \$1 of government funding in 2014, an increase of 20% since 2010.

International engagement

The MPA sector makes a significant contribution to the international profile of Australian arts and artists, and our reputation for artistic excellence. In 2014, MPA companies reached more than 130,000 people globally through attendances at 119 performances. International tours included the Australian Chamber Orchestra's performances in the major concert halls of Europe and the US, the Australian Ballet's tour to New York and Los Angeles, the Sydney Symphony Orchestra's seven city tour of mainland China, the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra at the BBC Proms and Edinburgh Festival, and the Melbourne Theatre Company's season at the Kennedy Center in Washington DC.



Othello, 2014, State Theatre Company of South Australia.
Image credit: Shane Reid

KEY ORGANISATIONS AND TERRITORY ORCHESTRAS

GRANT ALLOCATION: \$23.1 MILLION

Through the Key Organisations program the Australia Council provides multi-year funding to leading small to medium companies who are recognised for their national leadership in artistic excellence and the critical role they play in the Australian arts landscape. The Council manages funding relationships with 145 Key Organisations and two Territory Orchestras to promote the highest level of artistic achievement and sustainability.

The hundreds of organisations in the small to medium arts sector occupy the significant territory between individual arts practitioners operating independently and larger scale companies. This part of the sector can be viewed as a leading 'public activator' of Australia's arts and cultural life. It embraces and engages local artists, and is collaborative and highly accessible to audiences nationally and internationally. The small to medium arts sector is responsive and exceptionally diverse, providing an environment for creative risk, innovation and experimentation, and a platform for new and emerging work.

Audiences

Two million people attended a performance, school activity or workshop across Australia presented by a Key Organisation or Territory Orchestra in 2014. This includes 729,000 school children and teachers who attended performances and intensive workshops in schools. In addition to this, 5.1 million people visited an exhibition presented by a Key Organisation in Australia. These organisations reached over a million people in regional and remote Australia.

Creating and presenting work

The small to medium sector is a leader in the creation and presentation of new Australian work. The Council's Key Organisations presented 967 new works, 228 creative developments and a further 434 new productions, arrangements or remounts of existing Australian works. In total these organisations presented 114 world premieres and 145 Australian premieres of work by overseas artists.

Employment and turnover

Key Organisations employed over 14,000 people, including 7,300 artists, 1,400 creatives, 1,700 technicians and a further 3,800 people in education, marketing and arts administration.

Combined turnover of Key Organisations in 2014 was \$192 million, of which 51% was from government sources, including 19% from the Australia Council. Overall these organisations leveraged 95 cents for each \$1 of government funding in 2014.

International engagement

Small to medium organisations are nimble and can be highly responsive to international presentation opportunities as well as artistic collaborations and cultural exchange. Key Organisations increased the global profile of Australian arts by engaging audiences in 47 countries. In 2014, 28 organisations gave over 1,000 performances and workshops reaching a total audience of 352,000. This included Circa who presented to 90,000 people, Snuff Puppets who reached 85,500 people in Asia and Europe, and Shaun Parker and Company who reached 34,000 people in Europe, Asia and North America. A further 766,000 visited an exhibition of a Key Organisation in Europe, Asia, North America and the Pacific region.



Glass Studio workshop with glass artist Tobias Mohl, 2015, Jam Factory.
Image credit: Anna Fenech Harris