



# INVESTING IN OUR ARTS

## Valuing the arts & our artists

For a vibrant and independent Australian arts community

Australia is home to exceptional creative talent across diverse art forms. The Liberal government has decimated the arts sector by slashing arts funding and threatening its independence. The Greens value the role of arts in our society and will properly fund an independent arts sector and support our artists.

A vibrant, diverse and innovative arts sector is at the heart of any thriving society. Strong creative industries not only enrich our community, they are also a significant and growing contributor to our economy and an important strong source of employment.

Australian artists regularly produce world renowned works. However, the current Liberal government launched an unprecedented attack on the arts. Former Arts Minister George Brandis cut over a hundred million dollars in funding from the arts and plunged the sector into crisis by ripping money out of the respected and independent Australia Council for the Arts and pouring it into a body controlled by the Minister. This has threatened the very independence of publicly funded arts and increased the administrative burden for artists and art organisations seeking public funding.

The Greens have a strong commitment to supporting and promoting an independent and thriving Australian arts sector through increased levels of public funding, returning funding from the Arts Department to the independent Australia Council and supporting targeted programs and incentives to enable the arts to grow.

In this first part of the Greens' arts policy announced during the election campaign, the Greens will invest \$270.2 million in additional funding over the next four years to help support and grow the arts in Australia. The Greens will:

- Restore the full amount of funding cut from the Australia Council, ensuring that more individual artists and small to medium arts organisations can access Australia Council grants and re-establish programs that were cut;
- Provide an additional \$3 million to the ArtStart program over the next four years;
- Double the funding (from 2013-14 levels) available for Australia Council Grants and Initiatives for small and medium organizations and individuals;
- Provide funding of \$20 million over four years to pay artists when their works are publicly displayed;

- Increase funding by \$2 million per year for regional touring through Playing Australia until total funding reaches \$10 million and then an indexed amount annually;
- Remove touring arts companies from the 'in Australia' rule from 1 July 2017 which would allow organisations to become tax exempt entities;
- Create an Arts Research and Development grants program to encourage innovative arts projects with an initial funding allocation of \$5 million over the next four years;
- Introduce an artist in residence program at Parliament House supported by funding of \$1 million;
- Support national voices in the arts with a funding allocation of \$1 million over the next four years;
- Provide \$1 million to Tourism Australia to promote Australian art around the world and encourage visitors to engage with the arts in Australia;
- Establish a National Arts Week by providing funding of \$1 million over the next four years.

Later announcements will expand on tax incentives and financial support for artists and creative organisations.

### > INVEST IN A THRIVING AND INDEPENDENT ARTS SECTOR

Artists challenge and inspire us to see the world differently. To have a diverse and thriving arts sector, it must be free from the influence of politicians and their political agendas. Under the Liberal government, public arts funding has become heavily politicised. Over successive Budgets, the Liberal government has slashed funding for the arts and ripped money out of established, respected and independent funding bodies like the Australia Council for the Arts, instead pouring it into the Catalyst program, effectively a Ministerial slush fund.

**The Greens will abolish the Catalyst fund and return the full 2013/2014 levels of funding to the Australia Council for the Arts. This will ensure that government funding for the arts is**

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**delivered through a best practice, peer-assessed model and at arm's length from the government of the day.**

Small to medium arts organisations and individual artists are the heart of a strong arts ecology but they have been particularly impacted by the Liberal government's changes. Many arts organisations across Australia have lost funding as a result of the Liberal government's cuts to the Australia Council.

**In recognition of the important role of small to medium arts organisations and individual artists, the Greens will double the funding specifically available to small to medium arts organisations and individual artists through the Australia Council Grants and Initiatives fund, boosting funding by \$218.7 million over four years.**

The Liberal government has forced 'efficiency dividends' on our major cultural institutions and as a result they have lost millions of dollars of funding. This loss of funding has affected services like Trove, an important tool for the collection of information about Australian history and culture. **The Greens will restore the funding cut by 'efficiency dividends' and return funding to 2013/14 levels to protect the major cultural institutions that are the custodians of our shared cultural life and heritage.**

**The Greens will reverse the cuts to the National Gallery, National Library, National Museum, Screen Australia, the National Film and Sound Archive, Old Parliament House, the Australian Maritime Museum and the National Portrait Gallery.**

## > DEVELOP A STRATEGIC VISION FOR THE CREATIVE ECONOMY

Recent government interventions into the arts have plunged the sector into chaos. The Australia Council is stretched too thin, Catalyst is duplicating existing programs and it is clear that money is being spent without a clear plan. The limited funds that have been made available need to be spent wisely to ensure the long-term sustainability of the sector.

**The Greens believe the government must lead a process of developing a national strategic vision for the arts and the creative industries in collaboration with the sector to ensure the long-term sustainability of a thriving creative sector.**

**To support the collaboration between the arts sector and government, the Greens will invest \$1 million to support the work of artists and arts organisations forming a national voice for the arts.**

## > VALUE THE ARTS

The arts contribute to the social wellbeing, economy and cultural life of Australia, yet they are not given the credit they deserve by the broader public for the important role they play.

Many other sectors (like science) are acknowledged and supported through national weeks that provide focus,

community engagement and an opportunity to highlight the importance of the sector to our society and economy.

**To celebrate and raise the profile of the role the arts play in our society, the Greens will invest \$1 million in the establishment of a National Arts Week.** An 'arts week' was initially proposed by the Arts Party and is proudly being advanced by the Greens.

**The Greens will introduce an artist in residency program at Parliament House of Australia, providing artists with an opportunity to build upon and share their skills in the nation's capital, worth \$1 million over four years.** The program will also allow for politicians and policy-makers to better engage with the arts.

Artists who achieve excellence and are rewarded with prestigious arts prizes currently have to pay income tax on their winnings. The Prime Minister's Literary Awards are tax-free and the Greens see no reason why other prizes in recognition of artistic excellence should not also be tax-free. **The Greens will list our prestigious arts awards in law so that all prize money is exempt from income tax.**

## > HELP ARTISTS TO CREATE A CAREER

Despite the high value of art to our society, rarely does it provide a high income to its creators. Artists often operate as small businesses, having to account for the costs of materials, equipment, travel, training and venue hire before they can even think about take home pay.

The Greens are committed to supporting and promoting Australian artists and their work, and particularly encouraging young and emerging artists, as they establish their careers.

**The Greens will support artists' incomes by investing \$20 million over four years into a fund so that organisations can pay artists fees for works that are publicly displayed, loaned to a non-selling exhibition or used on other occasions when art is shared with the public.**

Artists need greater access to programs that support them at the crucial times when they are transitioning from education into the professional community. ArtStart was a successful program providing a boost to young and emerging artists.

**The Greens will support the next generation of artists by restoring the funding for ArtStart and contributing a further \$3 million for the expansion of the program.**

## > HELP ARTISTS TOUR THEIR WORK

It's time consuming and expensive for an artist to take their project on tour around Australia or overseas. We take pride in our artists and want to see their work shared across the country and with the world.

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In order to help artists with the costs of touring the Greens will **increase funding for *Playing Australia* to support artists touring regionally by \$2 million a year until it reaches \$10 million indexed annually. This will cost \$14.6 million over four years.**

**The Greens will remove the barrier to touring arts companies from becoming a tax exempt entity by removing the ‘in Australia’ rule from July 1 2017.**

## > SUPPORT FOR INNOVATION

**The Greens will put arts on the innovation agenda and support those who are working at the cutting edge with a \$5 million *Arts Research and Development Fund*.**

The fund will support new Australian work that is truly innovative and takes risks. The competitive grants program would support ventures such as:

- Performing arts in community development and social enterprise
- Providing access to space, resources and mentoring within Major Performing Arts Groups to small companies for the partnering of specific innovation projects
- Major innovative production concepts that need support for creative work before being pitched

## > ADVOCACY FOR AUTHORS

Australian authors are facing the increasing challenge of competing in the global and digital marketplace. **The Greens will invest \$5 million to establish a body that can genuinely advocate for Australian authors and the broader industry in this complex environment.**

## > PROMOTING AUSTRALIAN ARTS TO THE WORLD

Australia is home to exceptional creative talent from theatre to music, film, visual arts and everything in between. Australian artists produce world class works that attract attention from across the globe.

**The Greens will give \$1 million to Tourism Australia to promote Australian art around the world and encourage visitors to engage with the arts in Australia.**

## > CONSULT ON ANY CHANGES TO INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

Intellectual Property arrangements affect a wide range of industries and activities across our economy and society. The Greens believe it is critical that any changes are subject to substantial community and sector consultation and proper consideration.

The Greens are engaged in consultation with a range of stakeholders, interest groups and members of the community on the future of intellectual property in Australia, which will inform our approach to the final recommendations of the Productivity Commission and any potential changes.