



SUPPORTING ARTISTS' INCOME AND SUPERANNUATION

Relieving the pressures of financial insecurity

Artists entertain, challenge and inspire us and are at the core of our cultural life, yet they often struggle to make a living. The Greens have a fully costed plan to support artists to secure a living wage while their income is low and to help them save and plan for their retirement.

Despite the high value of art to our society, rarely does it provide a high income for artists. In fact, many artists often struggle to even make a living wage. Work as an artist is also often casual or insecure, which makes it difficult to save or plan for retirement.

The Greens value the important role that artists play in driving our cultural life and believe that they should be paid to reflect the value that they add to our society.

The Greens will:

- Allow artistic activities that provide community benefit to be eligible for Centrelink mutual obligation requirements at a cost of \$51 million over four years;
- Implement a new low-income artist superannuation supplement worth an additional \$500 per year for working artists who meet the eligibility criteria for the Low Income Superannuation Tax Offset (LISTO) announced in the 2016-17 Budget, costing \$23 million over four years;
- Establish an arts sector-led taskforce to advise about the opportunities and risks posed by the digitisation of distribution and consumption of creative works to ensure the continued creation of local artistic content; and
- 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 (this measure has been previously announced).

> A LIVING WAGE

Given the insecure nature of employment in the arts, many artists will at one point or another in their career find themselves unemployed and in need of income support. During

these times, work done to perfect their craft will increase employability in the future, but it currently goes unrecognised by the social security system. Furthermore, the requirement to spend time complying with extensive Centrelink mutual obligation requirements leaves less time to develop skills.

The Greens will allow artistic activities that provide community benefit to be eligible for Centrelink mutual obligation requirements. The Parliamentary Budget Office estimates the cost to be \$51 million over four years.

> BOOSTING ARTISTS' SUPER

Artists often run their own small businesses or earn low wages and therefore do not receive superannuation payments and are unable to adequately save for their retirement. The Greens have a plan to support artists throughout their career and into retirement.

The Greens will implement a new low-income artist superannuation supplement. If a working artist meets the eligibility criteria for the Low Income Superannuation Tax Offset (LISTO) announced in the 2016-17 Budget, they would be eligible to receive an additional annual government superannuation payment of \$500. The PBO estimates the cost to be \$23 million over four years.

> HELP ARTISTS TO CREATE A CAREER

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 have previously announced that we 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 have also already announced that we will support the next generation of artists by restoring the funding for ArtStart and, as previously announced, contribute a further \$3 million for the expansion of the program.

> SUPPORTING ARTISTS IN A DIGITAL ERA

Tax offsets, rebates and direct financial support have thus far proven to be a successful way to support the creative industries. However, digitisation is providing great opportunities but also significant challenges to the financial models of artists and the creative sector. This is particularly acute in the area of digital distribution and consumption of creative works.

The Greens will establish an arts sector-led taskforce to advise about the opportunities and risks posed by the digitisation of distribution and consumption of creative works. The taskforce will be asked to advise whether existing support mechanisms remain adequate to ensuring the continued creation of local artistic content.

> INVESTING IN THE ARTS

This policy supplements the previous announced Investing in our Arts package to reverse the Liberal government's cuts to the arts and invest a further \$270.2 million into the arts, including:

- Restoring 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;
- Providing an additional \$3 million to the ArtStart program over the next four years;
- Doubling the funding (from 2013-14 levels) available for Australia Council Grants and Initiatives for small and medium organizations and individuals;
- Providing funding of \$20 million over four years to pay artists when their works are publicly displayed;
- Increasing funding by \$2 million per year for regional touring through Playing Australia until total funding reaches \$10 million and then an indexed amount annually;
- Removing touring arts companies from the 'in Australia' rule from 1 July 2017 which would allow organisations to become tax exempt entities;
- Creating 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;
- Introducing an artist in residence program at Parliament House supported by funding of \$1 million;
- Supporting national voices in the arts with a funding allocation of \$1 million over the next four years;
- Providing \$1 million to Tourism Australia to promote Australian art around the world and encourage visitors to engage with the arts in Australia;
- Establishing a National Arts Week by providing funding of \$1 million over the next four years.