

Our Plan

The arts and culture shape and reflect our society in profoundly important ways.

Creativity, innovation, cultural understanding and social inclusion are all skills that can be learned in arts education and are vital to our future and. However education in dance, drama, media, music, visual art and design is not well resourced in schools or included in the Early Years Learning Framework. The Labor Government has finally agreed to include the arts in phase 2 of its National Curriculum.

A 'whole of life' approach is crucial to the arts, strengthening artists' legal rights, ensuring they receive royalties for the use of their work over time and broadening funding and employment opportunities.

Indigenous art enjoys wide international acclaim and is a dynamic living culture that helps define Australia's identity. However, a 2007 Senate inquiry found that many Indigenous artists were working in squalor for minimal pay, drugs and second hand cars and that the market had been swamped with fakes and poor quality work because of lack of regulation.

The Government recently introduced a voluntary code of practice but it is unlikely that unscrupulous dealers will sign it.

- Resale royalty rights (known as droit de suite) for all artists to ensure they can share in the increased value of their work over time
- amendments to the Copyright Act to:
 - protect traditional art and cultural heritage collectively owned by Indigenous communities, include fairer recognition of performer's rights to ensure that performers receive a fair rate for the commercial use of sound recordings
 - include a 'fair use' provision in copyright law so that reasonable personal usage is not criminalised
 - remove the cap commercial radio pays for its use of music recordings.
- Reform of tax law to distinguish professional artists from amateurs, and for the abolition of the threshold for tax exemptions on artists' non-arts related income
- Establish a 'living wage' for bona fide emerging artists and extend unemployment programs to include work experience, arts business training, apprenticeships and employment in the arts for professional artists (a similar scheme to that in NZ)
- Maintain financial support for the Australia Council and provide tax incentives to encourage philanthropic sector donations to the arts
- Engage with the Visual Education Roundtable and give greater emphasis to the arts in schools
- Include the arts in the Early Years Learning Framework and ensure primary schools to have specialist arts teachers
- Provide greater levels of funding for artists in schools programs
- Adopt the Australian Law Reform Commission recommendations to wind back sedition laws and their threat to artistic freedom of expression
- Act on the Senate inquiry recommendations on Indigenous Visual Arts and Craft