



LPA welcomes Labor's \$165m commitment to Creative Industries

Dear Member,

ALP Policy Plan: Creative Industries, Creative Country

LPA welcomes the Australian Labor Party's commitment to supporting the sustainability of Australia's thriving arts sector in recognition of the creative industries significant role in generating jobs and economic activity across Australia's cities and regions.

The ALP has committed \$165 million in new investment to grow Australia's creative industries.

The ALP's plan will:

- **Discontinue the Catalyst fund and return all remaining money to the Australia Council**, as well as providing **\$20 million a year in new funding** over four years from 2017 (**\$80 million in total**).
- Increase the **Regional Arts Fund** by **\$8 million** over four years.
- Invest \$1.8 million a year over four years (**\$7.2 million in total**) to strengthen Australia's **contemporary live music industry** by bringing the Live Music Office and the Australian Music Centre under the umbrella of an expanded Sounds Australia.
- Provide \$2 million a year to expand the successful **school music programs** including *Musica Viva in Schools*, as well as invest \$350,000 a year to continue the SongMakers program beyond 2017 (**\$9.4 million assumed over 4 years**).
- Invest **\$60 million** for the **ABC to produce local drama**.

LPA is pleased to note that a significant portion of this new investment will directly benefit the live performance industry.

Further detail on the ALP Creative Industries policy plan can be found [here](#).

Launch of Labor's Plan for a More Creative Australia

Opposition Leader Bill Shorten and Shadow Minister for the Arts Mark Dreyfus QC launched Labor's Plan for a More Creative Australia at the Malthouse Theatre on Saturday (4 June 2016).

The Opposition Leader acknowledged that "nourishing Australia's artistic potential and our cultural identity delivers **real economic benefits: jobs, skills, industries and education**". Mr. Shorten stated that as Prime Minister of a Labor Government he would "promise to give the great Australian artistic community **the respect, the recognition and resources you deserve**". The full speech is available [here](#).

The Shadow Minister for the Arts stated the "arts define who we are, as a modern, innovative, confident and outward looking society" and are a "critically important part of our economy, because **the arts are the engine that drives our creative industries**". The full speech is available [here](#).

The Greens Plan for Investing in Our Arts

LPA also welcomes the Greens commitment of \$270 million to support a vibrant and independent arts community, launched last Monday (30 May 2016).

The key aspects of the Greens' plan include:

- **Restoring the full amount of funding cut from the Australia Council**
- 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.

Further detail on the Greens Plan for Investing in Our Arts can be found [here](#).

LPA is pleased both the Labor Party and the Greens have responded to our call to return funds to the Australia Council and for outlining their plans for generating jobs and growth.

LPA will continue to call on the Coalition to commit to returning \$72.8 million to the Australia Council and to outline their plan for securing our industry's future.

The National Arts Debate

**The Wheeler Centre – Melbourne
Wednesday June 8th, 2016 1.00pm – 3.00pm**

ArtsPeak is organising a National Arts Election Debate in Melbourne on 8 June. The debate will bring the arts leaders of each of the major parties together to share their big ideas and respond to the burning questions of industry leaders and commentators from across the industry.

Patricia Karvelas (ABC and Sky news) will moderate a three cornered contest. Arts Minister Senator Mitch Fifield, Shadow Arts Minister Mark Dreyfus and Greens Arts Spokesperson, Adam Bandt are confirmed.

The event is currently fully booked. To join the waiting list, click [here](#).

The debate will also be live streamed [here](#).

LPA Federal Election Report Card

Next week LPA will be releasing our Report Card with a summary of the major parties' policy plan and investment priorities for supporting the live performance industry.

LPA Members: Call to Action

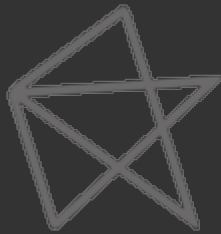
We call on Members to help LPA advocate on behalf of our industry this Federal election. LPA developed a Guide that outlines what you and your company can do to advocate for our industry over the next 5 weeks. A full copy of the Guide and other Federal Election resources can be found [here](#).

Please join the conversation on LPA's [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) sites.

Should you have any questions, please contact the LPA Office [via email](#) or call 03 8614 2000.

Kind regards,

Evelyn Richardson
LPA Chief Executive



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