

EMBARGO: NOT FOR PUBLICATION BEFORE 7 P.M. (E.S.T.)

FOR PRESS:

PM. NO. 98/1969

AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS: GRANTS FOR 1968-69

Statement by the Prime Minister, Mr. John Gorton

I have received from the Chairman of the Australian Council for the Arts the Council's recommendations for grants to be made by the Commonwealth Government in support of the performing arts in the current financial year

This is the first year of the Council's existence and it has given considerable thought to the proper function for Commonwealth support for the arts in relation to other forms of support. The Commonwealth contribution is only one among many. The arts belong to the whole community, and support for them should come from many sources - from State Governments, from local councils, from public organizations and private individuals. It is therefore to be hoped that the lead given by the Commonwealth in sponsoring the arts will encourage support at all levels throughout the Australian community. In this respect it is heartening to perceive a growing interest by many States in artistic matters. Splendid buildings are being erected in many State capitals and considerable help is being given to provide conditions in which the arts can flourish and Australians can take due pride in their increasing achievements in this field.

The Council is of the opinion that its main concern as a Federal body should be to establish and develop high national standards which will benefit activity in the arts throughout Australia and stimulate interest abroad in Australia's cultural achievements. Its concern with quality is fundamental. To this end the Council has adopted a principle widely accepted by similar bodies in other countries, that high standards can best be achieved by a concentration of available funds rather than by a thin spread over a wide area.

Much of the Council's work in these early stages is exploratory in nature. It has established working committees to seek expert opinion on its various areas of interest with a view to formulating in the near future long range policies for Government support for the arts in Australia. The Government understands that a report will shortly be forthcoming from the Council on the work of its film committee which has begun enquiries into means by which film making for television may be supported.

The Council has received requests for assistance in many categories other than the theatre arts to which its grants for this year have been restricted. It will begin enquiries as soon as possible into the need for assistance in some of these other fields and will advise the Government of its conclusions.

In announcing the Council's recommendations for 1968/69 may I express the Government's pleasure at being associated with activities in the arts which contribute so significantly to the enrichment of Australia's national life and to her reputation in other countries.

The grants for 1968/69 are as follows:

GRANTS RECOMMENDED BY THE AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL FOR
THE ARTS FOR THE YEAR 1968/69

1. <u>Professional Training Institutions</u>	\$
* (a) The National Institute of Dramatic Art	26,000
* (b) The Australian Ballet School	28,500
(c) A training scheme for theatre administrators	<u>5,000</u>
2. <u>National Touring Companies</u>	
* (a) The Australian Ballet	253,000
* (b) The Australian Opera	193,000
* (c) The Elizabethan Trust Orchestra	167,400
* (d) The Marionette Theatre of Australia	<u>30,000</u>
3. <u>Regional and State Organizations</u>	
A <u>Direct Financial Assistance</u>	
<u>In N. S. W.</u>	
* The Old Tote Theatre Company	49,000
<u>In Victoria</u>	
* Melbourne Theatre Company	70,000
Ballet Victoria	5,000
<u>In South Australia</u>	
* South Australian Theatre Company	19,000
<u>In Queensland</u>	
* Queensland Theatre Company (for a visit by the Old Tote Theatre Company)	14,000
* A Queensland Schools Tour (by the Old Tote Theatre Company)	5,000
<u>In the A. C. T.</u>	
Canberra Theatre Trust (for a visit by the Old Tote Theatre Company)	15,000
The Canberra Repertory Society	3,200
<u>In Western Australia</u>	
The National Theatre at the Playhouse	15,000
The Western Australian Opera Company	12,000
West Australian Ballet Company	4,000
<u>In Tasmania</u>	
National Theatre and Fine Arts Society	<u>23,500</u>
B <u>Assistance for special projects.</u>	
A fund to support special projects such as the commissioning of new works, productions of Australian plays, a pool of professional directors, performers and other experts connected with the performing arts, and youth activities in this field.	160,000

4.	<u>Federal Co-ordinating and Entrepreneurial Organizations</u>	
*	(a) Australian Elizabethan Theatre Trust for administration, production division, and entrepreneurial activities	227, 000
	(b) The Federal body of the Arts Councils of Australia for administration and support for national tours	24, 000
5.	<u>Studies and Reports</u>	
	U. N. E. S. C. O. Seminar on Public Support for the Performing Arts.	6, 000
6.	<u>International Visits from Australia</u>	
	(a) The Victorian Universities Choir, to the International Universities Choral Festival in New York.	15, 000
	(b) The New Sydney Woodwind Quintet to the Festival of Performing Arts in Manila.	5, 000
	(c) The University of Adelaide Wind Quintet, tour of America.	7, 000
7.	<u>Festivals</u>	
	(a) Canberra Spring Music Festival	7, 000
	(b) Adelaide Festival of Arts	15, 000
	(c) Festival of Perth	15, 000
	(d) Moomba Festival	6, 000
	(e) Second Australian Universities Arts Festival	1, 000
8.	<u>Aboriginal Activities in the Performing Arts</u>	10, 000

* Payments to these organizations will be made through the Australian Elizabethan Theatre Trust for this financial year.

CANBERRA
11 December 1962.