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AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS.: FURTHER GRANTS

Statement by the Prime Minister, Mr. John Gorton

Approval has been given for the final series of grants recommended by the Australian Council for the Arts from its budget for 1969/70. The grants, which total \$319,523, will assist a wide variety of special theatre projects, music activities, festival productions, Aboriginal arts programmes, and film and film-making ventures.

From the Special Projects Fund further assistance for experimental theatre productions has been provided. A special season of new Australian plays, a multi-media artists' workshop, and an actors' workshop will also receive support. Many grants provide the services of professional directors, technicians, tutors, actors and adjudicators for amateur and professional activities, while support will be given for special school performances and demonstrations by the Australian Opera in most capital cities.

Within the Aboriginal arts programme sums of \$5,000 and \$6,000 respectively will train an Aboriginal art conservationist and provide advice on developing and maintaining authenticity and high standards of work among Aboriginal artists. Other grants will assist Aboriginal performances and displays of traditional work.

Among music grants, \$6,620 to the International Society of Contemporary Music will assist an extensive concert programme of contemporary music, including many new Australian works. Other grants assist special concerts including a performance by the Australian Youth Orchestra prior to its appearance at Expo '70. Several grants will assist summer music schools and workshops in country centres including a school for band leaders. A grant of \$4,055 will enable the Adelaide Woodwind Quintet (which recently returned from a highly successful international tour) to perform in North Queensland and the Northern Territory; \$7,500 to Opera-in-a-Nutshell (N. S. W.) will bring high quality performances to the country and to schools. A further music grant of \$4,000 will provide orchestral services for the Western Australian Opera Company.

Among recommended grants for festival activities, \$5,000 will provide theatre and music programmes within the Waratah Festival in New South Wales, and \$1,000 will assist a youth festival at Williamstown, Victoria.

Many loans and grants totalling approximately \$100,000 have been approved to Australian film makers for experimental work in film and television. Other grants will provide financial support for Australian film festivals and to assist the use of Australian films in these festivals. A grant is given to the Australian Film Institute for the establishment of a distribution and exhibition service for films and television programmes made with help from the Experimental Film and Television Fund. \$10,000 has been allocated for an educational programme among children and young people to develop the understanding and critical appreciation of film and television.

I am pleased at the breadth and variety of these projects and hope that they will provide opportunities for Australian creative artists and enrich the experience and enjoyment of Australian audiences.

CANBERRA  
5 July 1970