

FOR PRESS:

P. M. No 113/1970

AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS:

MAJOR GRANTS FOR 1971

Statement by the Prime Minister, Mr. John Gorton

I have received from the Australian Council for the Arts recommendations concerning the major grants to be made by the Commonwealth Government in the current financial year.

Following last year's pattern, my Government has again provided on the recommendation of the Council a considerable increase in support for the arts. The Council's Budget for 1970-1971 has been increased by \$1 million to \$3.85 million. In addition, a further sum of \$1 million has been provided for the Film Development Corporation. We have done this as evidence of our concern for the quality of life which Australians should be able to enjoy. Our country has a most distinctive cultural tradition - one in which a unique natural environment, sporting and outdoor pastimes and freedom to choose a wide variety of leisure pursuits all bring personal happiness and enrichment. The arts in particular have a special place in that margin for fulfilment which remains between routine daily existence and joy in living.

My Government is gratified to see the surge of enthusiasm and activity made possible in the arts by the last two years of the Council's work. More and more talented young people are pursuing creative careers as actors, singers, dancers, musicians, writers, designers and directors. The big companies which now provide professional employment for hundreds of Australian artists are reaching higher standards and a wider public in city and country. Added stimulus comes from the world's great performers and directors who now come readily to work with these companies.

We can now look back on more than two years of activities. The broad lines of the Council's work are established. Great importance is attached to professional training. Funds are concentrated to encourage the highest standards of performance in the national companies. In conjunction with State Governments, who give to the arts with increasing generosity, regional companies are supported in all capital cities. The needs of country people are provided for. Festivals and special productions throughout the country receive regular assistance. Our international activities are increasing. A research programme examines the needs of the arts and suggests new areas for assistance.

This consolidation is gratifying. But it is not enough. In the arts established activity must always be balanced by new development. It is right for the big drama and opera and ballet companies to present what is best and most lasting in the cultural traditions of our past. But at the same time changing needs must be identified and fresh artistic drives liberated.

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In the 1970s we must make possible the classics of the twenty-first century. Investment in the future means tolerating and supporting unfamiliar ideas, experimental forms and new expression. It means ensuring that young people with vision can break with accepted and comfortable tradition and find a climate in which unorthodoxy can flourish.

Each year the Council moves into new areas. Last year it recommended support for Australian film and television makers. That support has now been given. A professional training school is in the planning stage; young film makers are already producing experimental films with our assistance; the Film Development Corporation now provides funds for the commercial industry.

Moving forward is the function of the Council's development funds - for music, aboriginal arts, festivals, film and television and special projects. This year we have added another fund - for youth and education programmes. The Council is convinced that one of its most important roles will be the encouragement of programmes which develop talent and stimulate interest in the arts for young people both within the education system and without. It is heartening to see the response from educationists and from State Governments which have already given generous support for pilot programmes in many fields. Co-operative action of this kind will make possible far greater achievement than we could manage alone.

The development funds assist large and small projects all over Australia. Aboriginal musicians come together in Arnhem Land with a touring wind quintet; Sir Tyrone Guthrie mounts major productions in Melbourne and Sydney; a workshop play about King O'Malley grows into a successful touring production; a film director goes out to help a school film club. As programmes prove successful they are absorbed into the regular grants of the Council and the funds move on to new activities. This year we hope to encourage more invention and experiment through the Special Projects Fund and assist still further community projects begun with help from city councils, trade unions and welfare organisations. The arts must weave into the whole fabric of our society.

Internationally our programme is also greatly expanding. We need the stimulus and pleasure to be derived from world class orchestras and companies which visit us. We are able increasingly to show our best professional performers to the world. This year we have sent abroad excellent chamber groups. The Melbourne Symphony Orchestra has gone to America. The Australian Ballet will leave before Christmas to tour the United States with Rudolf Nureyev.

It is my Government's hope that this varied and growing activity will bring great pleasure to the lives of all Australians.

Grants from the Development Funds and research programme are announced regularly throughout the year. It is my pleasure now to announce the first series of major grants for 1971 based on the recommendations by the Council.

GRANTS RECOMMENDED BY THE AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER, 1971

1.	<u>NATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMMES</u>	\$
	National Institute of Dramatic Art	72,000
	The Australian Ballet School	58,000
	Professional Training Programmes for Theatre Personnel	60,000
	Opera Training Scheme	50,000
	Interim Council for a National Film and Television Training School	85,000
	Travel Grants	25,000
2.	<u>NATIONAL ORGANISATIONS</u>	
	(a) <u>National Touring Companies</u>	
	The Australian Ballet Company	370,000
	The Australian Opera Company	410,000
	The Elizabethan Trust Orchestras	480,000
	The Marionette Theatre of Australia	55,000
	(b) <u>State Drama Companies</u>	
	The Old Tote Theatre Company, N. S. W.	165,000
	The Melbourne Theatre Company	180,000
	The South Australian Theatre Company	45,000
	The Queensland Theatre Company	45,000
	The Canberra Theatre Trust	15,000
	The National Theatre at the Playhouse, Perth	45,500
	The National Theatre and Fine Arts Society, Tasmania	34,500
	(c) <u>Federal Co-ordinating and Entrepreneurial Organisations</u>	
	The Australian Elizabethan Theatre Trust	262,000
	The Arts Council of Australia - Federal Division	110,000
	Musica Viva Society of Australia	8,000
3.	<u>REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS</u>	
	(a) <u>New South Wales - Professional Drama, Sydney</u>	
	The Ensemble Theatre )	
	The Independent Theatre ) (in total)	20,000
	The Community Theatre )	
	(b) <u>Victoria</u>	
	The Theatre Guild (St. Martin's) Ltd.	10,000
	The Victorian Opera Company	6,000
	The Victorian Ballet Guild (Ballet Victoria)	5,750

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(c) <u>South Australia</u>	\$
The Australian Dance Theatre	5,750
(d) <u>Queensland</u>	
The Queensland Ballet Company	7,000
The Queensland Opera Company	13,000
(e) <u>Western Australia</u>	
The Western Australian Opera Company	12,000
The Western Australian Ballet Company	12,000
The Hole in the Wall Theatre	3,000
(f) <u>Australian Capital Territory</u>	
The Canberra Repertory Society	5,500
4. <u>DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES</u>	
(a) Special Projects Fund - details to be announced	250,000
(b) Aboriginal Arts Programme - details to be announced	60,000
(c) Music Programme - details to be announced	100,000
(d) Festivals Programme - details to be announced	60,000
(e) Film and Television Programme - details to be announced	210,000
(f) Youth and Education Programme - details to be announced	80,000
5. <u>RESEARCH PROGRAMME</u>	
Details to be announced	20,000
6. <u>INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME</u>	
The Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, American tour (A. B. C.)	80,000
The Australian Ballet Company, American tour	50,000
The New Sydney Wind Quintet, South-East Asian tour (Musica Viva)	5,000
Percussions de Strasbourg (Musica Viva)	9,000
Zurich Chamber Orchestra (Musica Viva)	5,000
Mozart's English Friends (Arts Council of Australia)	5,000
Le Treateau de Paris (Australian Elizabethan Theatre Trust)	20,000

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CANBERRA / SYDNEY  
4 December 1970

NOTE:

The Council is holding a Press Conference at Sabemo House in Sydney at 3 o'clock this afternoon (Friday 4 December).