

Mr. Gend.

PRESS STATEMENT NO. 9

11 December 1972

MAJOR GRANTS FOR THE ARTS

The Prime Minister, Mr. Whitlam, today announced major grants by the Australian Government for the performing arts for 1973.

The grants, recommended by the Australian Council for the Arts, include boosts for companies involved in major new developments in Sydney, Perth and Adelaide.

These increases aim to enable opera, ballet and drama companies to appear to advantage in the Sydney Opera House, the Perth Concert Hall and the Adelaide Festival Centre.

The grant for the Australian Ballet has increased from \$400,000 in 1972 to \$500,000 for 1973. The Australian Opera will receive \$800,000, compared to \$650,000 in 1972, the Elizabethan Trust Orchestras \$800,000 (\$640,000), the Old Tote Theatre Company \$260,000 (\$186,000), the South Australian Theatre Company \$90,000 (\$60,000) and the National Theatre at the Playhouse, Perth \$80,000 (\$62,500).

Another substantially increased grant will go to the Tasmanian Theatre Company which will receive \$70,000, compared to \$45,000 in 1972.

Details of other major grants are attached.

Mr. Whitlam said the coming year will see developments of great importance to the arts, both at Federal and State level. In many State capitals during 1973 splendid new buildings will open in which the people of Australia will be able to share the pleasure and excitement of performances by our top performing artists. The Concert Hall in Perth, the Festival Centre in Adelaide, the Opera House in Sydney and other fine buildings now being planned in other capital cities will provide magnificent settings for our orchestras and our opera, ballet and drama companies. It is our aim to see that the companies are able to appear in them to advantage. To this end our grants to the national and State companies have been increased to allow them to build up their resources and mount a fitting scale and quality of performance.

Australia must aim towards companies of world quality if our top professional artists are to be encouraged to live and work here. But our aims are broader than that. The arts have an important role in the changing life style of Australia. We look to a future when the leisure time of all Australians will be enriched by the diverse pleasures of music, drama, dance and painting, craft work, opera, film and sculpture; when children, whatever their background, will have an equal chance to express and develop talents and enthusiasms.

To foster this general community interest my Government will in the coming year provide many more grants for special projects and give increased assistance to bodies like the Arts Councils which cater for the needs of country people. We will also increase support to the small theatre companies in the various States which provide an invaluable basis for our national companies and in many cases are beginning to compete with them in range and interest of work.

In the coming year significant changes will be implemented in the administration of the arts at Federal level to carry out the undertaking given in the Australian Labor Party's policy speech. I stated there our concern to help the arts, not only by fostering high standards of work and wide public interest and involvement, but by seeking through them a focus and expression of our national identity and a means of making our values better known in contact with other countries. To achieve these objectives the present arrangements will be overhauled and the Australian Council for the Arts will be set up by statute to provide the direct and specialised administration which the arts require.

CANBERRA. A.C.T.

MAJOR GRANTS RECOMMENDED BY THE AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS FOR
THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER, 1973

<u>NATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMMES</u>	\$
National Institute of Dramatic Arts	140,000
Australian Ballet School	30,000
<u>NATIONAL AND OTHER MAJOR ORGANISATIONS</u>	
The Australian Ballet	500,000
The Australian Opera	800,000
The Elizabethan Trust Orchestras	800,000
The Marionette Theatre of Australia	65,000
The Old Tote Theatre Company	230,000
The Melbourne Theatre Company	260,000
The South Australian Theatre Company	90,000
The Queensland Theatre Company	30,000
The Canberra Theatre Trust	20,000
The National Theatre at the Playhouse, Perth	80,000
The Tasmanian Theatre Company	70,000
The Australian Elizabethan Theatre Trust	307,000
The Arts Council of Australia (Federal Division)	175,000
Musica Viva Australia	63,000
<u>REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS</u>	
<u>New South Wales</u>	
The Ensemble Theatre	5,000
The Community Theatre	15,000
Q Theatre Group	12,000
Nimrod Street Theatre	13,000
Young Opera	7,000
The Dance Company, N.S.W.	10,000
<u>VICTORIA</u>	
The Theatre Guild (St Martin's) Limited	13,000
The Victorian Opera Company	16,500
The Victorian Ballet Guild	13,000
Australian Performing Group	13,000
La Mama Writers' Workshop and Experimental Theatre	6,000
<u>SOUTH AUSTRALIA</u>	
The Australian Dance Theatre	13,000
Theatre 62	14,000
<u>QUEENSLAND</u>	
The Queensland Ballet Company	7,000
The Queensland Opera Company	24,000
Twelfth Night Theatre	14,000
<u>WESTERN AUSTRALIA</u>	
The Western Australian Opera Company	24,000
The West Australian Ballet Company	15,500
The Hole in the Wall Theatre	5,000
<u>AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY</u>	
The Canberra Repertory Society	6,000
<u>MELBOURNE/SYDNEY</u>	
<u>December, 1972</u>	