

FOR PRESS

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LIBERAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE ARTS

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER ASSISTING THE PRIME MINISTER
IN THE ARTS, HON. J. A. STALEY

The Fraser Government has given increased assistance to Arts activities in Australia and is now proposing still greater assistance.

In our recent Budget, which for obvious economic reasons, was the tightest ever, we still managed to emphasise our commitment to the Arts by increasing grants to Arts activities including writing, drama and the crafts by over 10%.

Involvement in the Arts should be available for everyone so we have recently established a Community Arts Board to expand Arts activities in the community. For instance, in the remote areas, and among young people.

We have already indicated that as an incentive for people to donate works of Art to public galleries and museums we will allow a tax deduction equivalent to the full market value of the donation.

This action by the Fraser Government will allow the State and regional galleries to dramatically increase their collections of Art in the interests of the community.

We are now proposing an Australian Art Bank which will bring all types of Art work out of the galleries and into the public places where people who never go near a gallery can enjoy them.

Australians should be proud of their film industry which is receiving acclaim, not only at home but internationally. The Fraser Government is now proposing further tax incentives in the film industry to ensure that films like "Storm Boy", "Picnic at Hanging Rock" and "Don's Party" will continue to be made and exported.

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