Support for the Arts

The arts and creative industries are fundamental to Australia’s identity as a society and nation, and increasingly to our success as a national economy.

The Australian Government is investing in programs and policies to encourage excellence in the arts, support cultural heritage and provide public access to arts and culture in metropolitan and regional areas.

Through a comprehensive network of touring and outreach programs, regional Australians are inspired and challenged by some of the best and most diverse local and national arts and cultural organisations and artists.

The rich cultural practices, knowledge systems and cultural expressions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are a source of great strength, resilience and pride. The Government delivers significant direct grant programs to strengthen and renew Indigenous cultural expression and practice.

Budget 2012-13

The 2012-13 Budget secures jobs in the arts, cultural heritage and creative industries and builds the base for future growth. There is new support for Australia’s national collecting institutions, funding to boost contemporary music, innovation and export, investment in multicultural arts organisations and support for visual artists.

National Collecting Institutions

Access to Australia’s pre-eminent collecting institutions and their programs will be expanded with an additional $39.3 million over four years. With this funding the national collecting institutions can increase education activity and online content through the National Broadband Network.

National Portrait Gallery

The National Portrait Gallery will become a statutory authority from 1 July 2013 recognising the gallery’s status as a flagship art museum and bringing it into line with other major national cultural institutions.

Support for creative excellence

Australia’s artists, musicians and creative workers will benefit from a number of funding initiatives. Contemporary Australian music will receive $3.0 million in funding over four years to boost local acts and increase innovation and export development.

This includes $1.75 million for Sounds Australia to grow export and domestic markets and to support contemporary music artists. The remaining $1.25 million will be used to address workforce skills development, building on the success of existing initiatives including CONTROL for music management and GENERATE, a music enterprise investment pilot offering business development knowledge and skills.

The Australian Government invests more than $16 million each year in operational funding for our elite training institutions. An additional $1.6 million over four years will be provided to the Australian National Academy of Music to continue elite level brass training and the introduction of percussion education.

Importantly, this will also give regional and remote communities greater access to our national collections.

The Government is also reviewing legal deposit obligations to meet the demands of the digital age so that the National Library of Australia can include electronic material in its collection for future generations to access.
To attract the filming of *The Wolverine* to Australia, a one-off payment of $12.8 million will be provided and will result in over $80 million of investment and create more than 2,000 jobs.

The Government has committed $700,000 for the resale royalty scheme for artists to be supported for a further two years, after which it is expected to be self-sustaining.

Our diverse cultural heritage will also be supported with a $2 million investment for the creation of the Antipodes Centre for Greek Culture, Heritage and Language and a $1.5 million investment to support capital works for the new Islamic Museum of Australia, both in Melbourne.

**Private Sector Support**

Private sector support for the arts will also be further encouraged with funding of $3.2 million over two years to the Australia Business Arts Foundation (AbaF), while the Government finalises its response to the Mitchell Review of Private Sector Support for the Arts.

**National Cultural Policy**

The Government is developing a new National Cultural Policy which will set out a ten year vision that guides support for arts, culture and the creative industries for the benefit of all Australians.

The National Cultural Policy, to be released later this year, is based on extensive input from the arts sector and community and industry groups including state and local government.

The review of the Australia Council, the Convergence Review recommendations about support for Australian screen content and access to Australian stories, and the Mitchell Review will inform the Policy and highlight ways the Government can better realise the social and economic dividends of investment in the arts.

For further information:

www.arts.gov.au
www.budget.gov.au