

Arts Industry Council (Victoria)

- *the independent voice for the arts*

BULLETIN

Please circulate through your networks

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Intro

There's a lot happening nationally and in Victoria – change is in the air, and not all of it good. AIC is focussed on Victoria, but keeps an eye

1. Arts Organisations and the Community Sector

It's about time the arts sector raised it's profile and drew broader alliances to raise its profile in the broader community and with government. Everyone is doing their bit in this shared agenda and AIC is aiming to help it along.

Arts Industry Council has been engaging with the new Office of the Community Sector to ensure that the needs of arts organisations and the creative sector are considered in implementing the **Victorian Government's Action Plan: Strengthening Community Organisations**. Most arts organisations may be considered "community organisations", particularly Incorporated Associations and others with Not-For Profit status.

The Action Plan contains a lot of initiatives that will have an impact on arts organisations and the broader arts field. AIC's Kevin Brennan, together with Jerril Rechter from Footscray Community Arts Centre, are on the Reference Committee for the **Office of Community Sector** (Department of Planning and Community Development), which was set up from April this year to implement

the Action Plan and coordinate activity across the state government.

The themes of the Action plan are:

1. **Reducing the regulatory burden and streamlining interaction with government**
2. **Building capacity of community organisations**
3. **Supporting innovation and growth**
4. **Enhancing the role of NFPs in local community life, and**
5. **Recognising community organisations and coordinating effort across government.**

For a copy of the Action Plan and more background information, check out the following link:

<http://www.dvc.vic.gov.au/Web14/dvc/dvcmain.nsf/allDocs/RWP5FCB0E3A722237C7CA25727C00059BFB?OpenDocument>

Progress has already been made on several actions, and AIC hopes to alert you of key changes and developments as they are implemented. Examples applicable to the arts sector include:

- Changes to the Associations Incorporations act to simplify reporting and requirements
- Simplifying grant reporting requirements and increasing consistency in grant reporting across government
- Bringing in transferable Annual Leave (for when staff move between organisations)
- Investing in leadership development and mechanisms for increasing professional development and volunteer training.
- Sharing more facilities to open up access (such as schools)
- Setting up new 12 community foundations to resource local activity

AIC is taking a strong interest in the implementation of the Action Plan because it's part of the strategic focus to get more recognition for arts activity in a whole-of-government context. We plan to help set up mechanisms to raise the profile of arts and creative activity as well as concrete action to increase support for this activity. Kevin Brennan is on two working groups:

1. **Grant reform**
2. **Establishment of a new community sector peak organisation** to provide leadership for the whole community sector ("not-for-profit") and a unified voice in taking to government. AIC sits on this group with VicSport, Victorian Council of Social Services (VCOSS) and Environment Victoria.

The direction of this activity on your behalf is in line with priorities identified from our **2007 Think Tank** and our strategic planning. We're trying to increase recognition outside the "arts ghetto". If you have any queries or comments, please feel free to email or call.

2. Victorian Arts & Disabilities Research Project

It's important to take part in a this survey of arts and disability activity

The Cultural Development network has been commissioned to do this research into increasing participation by the Victorian State Government through a partnership between the Office for Disability (Department of Planning & Community Development), Arts Victoria (Department of Premier & Cabinet) and Disability Services Division (Department of Human Services)

Here's what they've said:

SURVEYS- The Arts and Disability

Currently underway is the collection of information and data from across Victoria on the art experiences of people with a disability. Two surveys are accessible online. One for individuals with a disability and one for venues & organisations. We encourage you to complete the survey that is relevant to you, to help us offer a more complete picture of accessibility and participation in the arts by people with a disability in Victoria.

Organisations & Venues

(This includes general Arts Presenters/Producers, Arts Venues, Arts & Disability Organisations, Peak Bodies, Disability Support Organisations - community residential support staff/management, adult training & support service staff/managers, other relevant organisations that offer opportunities and/or support for artists, emerging artist & audience members)

If you represent a venue or organisation then a separate survey is available and we seek your response to this survey. Please click on this

link to complete the survey online

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=u8YT5tIXnIvdgDF3x9kw>

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ARTS ORGANISATIONS & VENUE ACTIVITY MAPPING

For those venues and organisations who offer arts opportunities (for artists, emerging artists &/ audience members) we welcome you to be part of

a mapping exercise that will contribute to a future online multimedia

Victorian Arts Resource Map. Please click on this link to be part of this

resource map

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=9UyUIcLzcrT20FWA8IBuXg_3d_3d

Want to know more about the research project?

For general Information about the project please click on this link:

<http://aadproject.info/>

3. New Arts & Education lobby action

From NAVA's media release

Unless the arts are included as a key learning area in the development of a national curriculum for schools, children coming through the system will be illiterate in the new skill areas essential for the C21st.

So says a new lobby coalition, the National Advocates for Arts Education (NAAE) which has just spent two days meeting with politicians and arts advisers in Canberra. Comprehensively representing dance, drama, music and visual arts education, the NAAE is urgently calling for the immediate inclusion of the arts in the work of the National Curriculum Board and the Early Years Learning Framework.

NAAE believes that a culturally rich education is central to realising the Government's priorities for a genuine education revolution and fostering **creativity, innovation, cultural understanding** and **social inclusion** in the Australian workforce.

Recent Australian research evidence* backs international findings that arts education develops these skills as no other subject area can. It demonstrates that visual, aural and kinaesthetic abilities are essential for Australians to compete in the global marketplace where the economy of the cultural industries is growing in importance.

The NAAE is planning a campaign for 2009 involving teachers, school principals, parents, university teacher education bodies,

industry and a range of other sectors with an interest in the future of the education system.

NAAE members want to see:

- mandated representation of the arts within the curriculum K to 10
- radically overhauled pre- and in-service teacher education and professional development
- vastly improved arts teaching standards, resources and research.

4. Review of ABC and SBS – arts OFF the agenda?

The Federal Government is undertaking a review of the national broadcasters, ABC and SBS. A discussion paper has been released and the Government are calling for submissions. The discussion paper is meant to stimulate comments.

- ***If you have time, read the discussion paper***
<http://www.dbcde.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/88289/ABC_and_SBS_Towards_a_digital_future_low_resolution.pdf>
- ***OR make a short submission online by 4pm, Friday 12th December***
<http://www.dbcde.gov.au/media_broadcasting/consultation_and_submissions/abc_sbs_review/make_a_submission>

Dick Letts from the Music Council of Australia has pointed out that there is little or no mention of the arts in the Discussion paper, which is a worrying development. The discussion paper DOES say:

"The ABC and other public broadcasters should be resourced as a cultural platform for the delivery of culture and arts to society"

Have your say and simply state that the arts should remain central to programming for Australian and world audiences. Add your own points if you have the inclination.

If you have any queries regarding any of these items or would like to join this e-list, send a reply today.

Yours,

Kevin Brennan
Executive Officer

Arts Industry Council (Victoria)
- the independent voice for the arts in Victoria

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- The Arts Industry Council (Victoria) is a membership-based not-for-profit lobby organisations seeking to represent the interests of the arts community.
- We receive no on-going support from funding bodies and rely on membership fees to survive.
- To contact us OR TO JOIN email <<mailto:kevbre@netspace.net.au>> or phone 03 9421 2798. Membership application forms can be downloaded from our website: <http://www.aicv.org.au/>

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