



**Premier of Queensland
and Minister for Trade**

ARTS POLICY ENCOURAGES CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT & JOBS GROWTH

The Beattie Government aims to deliver more jobs for Queenslanders by charting a new course for its future investment in the arts and cultural development.

Premier Peter Beattie and Minister for the Arts, Matt Foley, have launched a policy which for the first time sets out a whole-of-Government approach to the arts.

Mr Beattie said *Creative Queensland – The Queensland Government Cultural Policy 2002*, was an exciting step forward in delivering the Government's vision for a culturally dynamic State.

"The policy aims to encourage departments to work together to increase employment and training opportunities in the cultural and creative industries," Mr Beattie said.

"It also focuses on the use of new technologies, the promotion of cultural tourism and the export potential of Queensland's cultural industries.

"The Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art showing in Brisbane is one example of a cultural event which draws visitors from interstate and overseas," he said

In this year's State Budget, \$196 million dollars was allocated to the Arts portfolio.

"A Smart State is a creative State which recognises that cultural development contributes to the economic and social wellbeing of Queenslanders," Mr Beattie said.

"Many new jobs for the information age are emerging in the creative and cultural sectors.

"We are seeing closer, stronger ties between innovation and industry and between creativity and our State's success in the global economy," Mr Beattie.

Minister for the Arts, Matt Foley, said the policy clearly demonstrated that arts and culture are the business of all Government departments and agencies.

"For the first time, all departments and agencies have recognised that arts and cultural programs are core business for Government and that they all have a role to play in delivering those programs," Mr Foley said.

Executive Building
100 George Street Brisbane
PO Box 185 Brisbane Albert Street
Queensland 4002 Australia

Telephone +61 7 3224 4500
Facsimile +61 7 3221 3631
Email ThePremier@premiers.qld.gov.au
Website www.thepremier.qld.gov.au

“That’s an incredible shift in thinking across Government.

“Having said that, Arts Queensland will retain its key role in driving the partnerships across Government to deliver tangible benefits for people throughout the State.

“Equally important is that the policy signals, not just partnerships across Government, but also between the private, community and education sectors.”

Mr Foley said Government departments were already developing new partnerships as a result of the development of the policy.

“I recently launched a partnership between Arts Queensland and the Department of Employment and Training which will open up training and employment opportunities for arts and cultural workers, formalise and recognise accredited workplace training, and increase the awareness of funding initiatives,” Mr Foley said.

The cultural policy is the result of extensive consultation with industry experts, the arts and cultural sector, individuals and groups across Queensland.

The key strategies signalled in the cultural policy are to:

- Enhance lifelong learning and education through artistic and cultural activity;
- Foster leadership and professional excellence in the arts;
- Foster community capacity and renewal through cultural development;
- Promote cultural tourism;
- Enhance public places, cultural infrastructure and services;
- Increase employment and training opportunities in the cultural and creative industries;
- Promote research and development, and adoption of new technologies in the cultural industries;
- Enhance export and business development opportunities; and
- Foster growth in the creative industries.

Creative Government – Arts and Cultural Activity Across the Queensland Government, a companion document to the cultural policy was also launched today.

It is the first whole-of-Government documentation of arts and cultural activities being carried out by Government departments and agencies.

Mr Foley said *Creative Government* tells provides the Government with the opportunity to examine ways of better coordinating activities across Government.

The documents can be found on the Arts Queensland website at www.arts.qld.gov.au or they can be ordered by telephoning Arts Queensland on 07 3224 4896.

Media contacts: Anne Delaney (Premier’s office) 3224 4500

Russ Morgan (Minister Foley’s office) 3224 2189 or 0408 722 025

4 October 2002

ABOUT CREATIVE QUEENSLAND AND CREATIVE GOVERNMENT

- *Creative Queensland* is the first whole-of-Government cultural policy which is a blueprint for the Queensland Government's significant investment in arts and culture.
- *Creative Queensland* is about breaking down the barriers in Government. It will mean all Government departments working smarter – and together – in delivering arts and cultural programs.
- New opportunities will be created by building new partnerships – across Government, and with the private, community and education sectors.
- *Creative Queensland* is for all Queenslanders – it's about jobs, education, training, new industries, new research, new technologies. It's about the importance arts and culture play in our own wellbeing and the places where we live.
- *Creative Queensland* provides a renewed commitment to regional arts and cultural development and builds on the Government's significant investment in regional arts.
- A number of new initiatives are signalled in *Creative Queensland* including:
 - An annual Creative Fellowship to recognise leading Queensland artists;
 - A small business start-up program, including skills development, to assist new businesses in the cultural sector;
 - A poetry and short story competition in Queensland schools to raise the profile of writing;
 - A Cultural Export Policy to take Queensland's arts and cultural products to the world;
 - The establishment of the position of Government Curator to manage artwork collections across Government;
 - A major research project to identify the social and educational impact of arts activity on children in the middle school years;
 - An Indigenous cultural network to link a range of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts and cultural activity and new facilities in Brisbane; and
 - An Indigenous Youth Arts Foundation to assist Indigenous high school students to develop career paths as professional artists.
- *Creative Queensland* affirms that arts and culture are important in our lives: it enlivens us; enriches our communities; builds community identity and pride; and helps us celebrate our differences and diversity.
- Arts Queensland will lead the implementation of *Creative Queensland*.
- Extensive consultation was undertaken across Queensland in the development of *Creative Queensland*. Some 27 public forums were conducted across the State.
- *Creative Government* is the first document compiled by the Queensland Government about the arts and cultural activities being undertaken by departments and agencies. It features information from 24 departments.

Executive Building
100 George Street Brisbane
PO Box 185 Brisbane Albert Street
Queensland 4002 Australia

Telephone +61 7 3224 4500
Facsimile +61 7 3221 3631
Email ThePremier@premiers.qld.gov.au
Website www.thepremier.qld.gov.au