

Aboriginal and
Torres Strait Islander
Arts Policy
2009–2013



Table of contents

1. Acknowledgment
 2. Our commitment
 3. Vision
 4. Context
 5. Key action areas
 6. Protocols
 7. Definitions
- Appendix 1 – Policy context and links
- Appendix 2 – The Arts Portfolio

Cover: The Dreaming Festival 2008. Photograph: Jason Henry, Lime Pictures.

1. Acknowledgment

Many people have generously shared their wisdom, energy and time to ensure this policy reflects the aspirations, ambitions and needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and artists, and arts and cultural workers. As an Arts Portfolio, we gratefully acknowledge their contribution.

Wherever possible we have used existing information from communities and reports as the foundation for this policy (see Appendix 1). Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representatives and a cross-portfolio advisory committee have played an invaluable role in contributing to the policy's further development. We thank them for their guidance and ideas.

Representatives of the Queensland Indigenous Arts Marketing Export Agency (QIAMEA, Trade Queensland) have also worked closely with us to develop this policy. QIAMEA builds on the Arts Portfolio's professional development and industry development work by supporting Indigenous artists' marketing and export activities. It advocates for and supports a whole-of-government focus on developing the Queensland Indigenous arts industry to ensure supply of quality Queensland Indigenous arts, and markets and exports Queensland's Indigenous art to establish it as a significant contemporary force in international and domestic markets.

We value our partnership with QIAMEA and acknowledge its commitment and contribution to this policy.

2. Our commitment

The purpose of this policy is to support Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders to preserve, strengthen and build awareness and appreciation of their unique cultures; and to support the development of sustainable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts and cultural industries.

This commitment embraces all forms of arts, culture and heritage including song, dance, theatre, painting, sculpture, craft, multimedia, writing and collections in their full diversity of style and expression.

The policy reflects the shared vision and commitment of the Arts Portfolio to developing genuine relationships with Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to promote strong Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts and cultures.¹

It also provides a guide for the Arts Portfolio's future investment in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts and cultural programs, policies, planning and decision-making processes.

The Arts Portfolio includes:

- Arts Queensland
- Queensland Museum
- State Library of Queensland
- Queensland Art Gallery
- Queensland Performing Arts Centre
- Queensland Theatre Company
- Aboriginal Centre for the Performing Arts
- Major Brisbane Festivals Pty Ltd
- Queensland Music Festival Pty Ltd
- Pacific Film and Television Commission.

We recognise that connection with arts and culture is fundamental to individual and community identity, wellbeing and resilience, and that cultural enterprise can be a source of economic growth and prosperity for communities. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts and cultures are also a strong part of the Queensland story and contribute to the distinctiveness of our national identities.

For these reasons, as an Arts Portfolio we will:

- celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts and cultures and their place in forming Queensland's unique cultural identities
- promote the contribution of Queensland's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts and cultures to our national identities and the expression of Australian culture internationally
- foster the development of the next generation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders in arts and culture
- invest in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts and cultures to deliver sustainable benefits to artists, arts and cultural workers, and communities
- develop strong strategic partnerships with relevant government and non-government organisations to build engagement and commitment, and enable coordinated approaches
- embed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives within all policy.

We are committed to:

- the right of Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders to own and control their cultural and intellectual property
- respecting, promoting and protecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists' moral, legal and cultural rights
- working in partnership with Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders in the development of programs, policies and initiatives

¹ Throughout this policy the terms 'arts' and 'cultures' are used — definitions of these terms are included in Section 7.

- working together with our partners and across the Arts Portfolio to develop and implement actions that support the sustainable growth of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts and cultures.

3. Vision

This strategy supports opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists and communities to develop and enhance their skills, share their talents, develop their unique art forms and keep telling the stories.

In our vision, traditional and evolving contemporary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts and cultures are acknowledged, valued, preserved, promoted, developed and celebrated.

Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders are acknowledged as a central part of Australian arts and culture, keeping Indigenous arts and cultures alive and vibrant, and providing invaluable insights into Indigenous Australian culture. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts and cultures are embraced by Queenslanders as a rich and central part of our history and our contemporary cultural life, and as an expression of our uniqueness as a state and as a nation.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities practise their arts and cultures with pride, and experience the spiritual, community, cultural and economic benefits that flow from strong connection with culture. The quality of work produced in Queensland is acknowledged and celebrated, and sustainable cultural enterprises generate strong financial returns to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists and their communities. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists and cultural workers in all art forms are acclaimed locally, nationally and internationally.

We also share the Queensland Government's vision for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders to have their cultures affirmed, heritage sustained and the same prospects for health, prosperity and quality of life as other Queenslanders.

4. Context

Queensland's cultures and identity are enriched by Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders who have called its land and waters home since time immemorial.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures are inseparably connected to country and are among the oldest surviving cultures in the world. They are numerous and diverse, made up of hundreds of different kinship and language groups that have adapted to a range of diverse living conditions for over 50,000 years.

Australian Indigenous cultures have survived over 200 years of colonisation including suppression of identity and language, which is the cornerstone of Indigenous cultural heritage. In 2006, almost 145,000 Queenslanders identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people. Queensland has the second largest Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population and this population is growing.

Cultural expression is informed by the past, and culture and the arts remain a vital part of Indigenous Australian contemporary society.

Statistical snapshot

- In 2006, Queensland's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population was estimated to be 146,400, or around 3.6% of Queensland's total population. Only New South Wales (152,685) had a higher Indigenous population.
- At the 2006 Census, 98,700 (77.4%) of Queensland's Indigenous population identified as Aboriginal and 18,400 (14.4%) identified as Torres Strait Islander. 10,500 (8.2%) identified as both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander.
- According to the 2006 Census, 38.9% of Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders were aged less than 15 years compared with 20% of the non-Indigenous population. Only 3% of the Indigenous population was aged 65 years and over, compared with 12.5% of the non-Indigenous population.
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders are dispersed across the state, with an estimated 21.9% living in major cities, 51.6% living in regional areas and 26.5% living in remote and very remote areas.
- In Queensland, over 100 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages and dialects were once spoken. Today around 50 of these remain spoken (to varying degrees), with less than 20 being used as first languages, predominantly in the north of the state (Wik Munkan) and in the Torres Strait Islands (Kalaw Kawaw Ya and Kalaw Lagaw Ya).
- Queensland has more Indigenous Australians whose main occupation is visual art or craft than any other state or territory.

Source – Queensland Closing the Gap Report 2007–08.

5. Key action areas – the four pathways

The following pathways will guide future Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander initiatives within the Arts Portfolio:

1. raise cultural awareness and knowledge
2. support arts development and promotion
3. support Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders to protect and strengthen culture
4. increase employment and training in the arts and cultural sector

An action plan based on these pathways will be developed, identifying how we will work towards the objectives set out below.

5.1 Raise cultural awareness and knowledge

Aim: To recognise and celebrate the contribution of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts and cultures to Queensland

Awareness of Queensland's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander traditional and contemporary arts, cultures, heritage, lifestyles and protocols can build knowledge and respect for their richness and diversity, and contribute to understanding between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities as the basis for reconciliation.

Objectives

- To increase the recognition and valuing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts and cultures.
- To increase participation in and awareness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts and cultures.
- To promote understanding and appreciation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts and cultures.
- To support the work of Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders in connecting young Indigenous people with their arts and culture.
- To support all children and young people in Queensland to gain an appreciation and understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts and cultures.

5.2 Support arts development and promotion

Aim: To support a vibrant and sustainable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts industry

Queensland's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities have rich traditional and contemporary arts and cultural practices. All organisations within the Arts Portfolio are committed to supporting the artistic endeavour and cultural expression of Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders through providing skills development opportunities, as well as through collections, exhibitions, performances and festivals.

Objectives

- To promote strong Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts and cultures that represent Queensland's cultural heritage.
- To celebrate and profile Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artistic excellence.
- To foster young and emerging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists and cultural workers as the future leaders in telling Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stories and developing contemporary culture.
- To build sustainability in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts and cultural industries through growing audiences.

5.3 Support Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders to protect and strengthen culture

Aim: To support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander wellbeing and social cohesion resulting from a strong connection with culture and heritage

The cultural heritage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders is an important part of Queensland's cultural identities. The Arts Portfolio is committed to supporting the sustainability of Queensland's rich and diverse cultural landscape; and supporting Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders to sustain their heritage, and protect, preserve and maintain their cultures and languages.

Objectives

- To provide opportunities for cultural retention through traditional and contemporary forms of expression.
- To support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts and cultural programs and events.
- To support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in the revival, reclamation and maintenance of Indigenous languages.

5.4 Increase employment and training in the arts and cultural sector

Aim: To support skills development and employment opportunities as a means of building the economic independence of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities

Effective training and employment opportunities are essential to the growth and prosperity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts and cultural enterprise and greater economic independence for Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders.

Objectives

- To provide education and training opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists and arts and cultural workers.
- To provide appropriate career pathways for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists and arts and cultural workers.
- To assist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists and arts and cultural workers to develop the skills necessary to build and maintain successful arts businesses.
- To increase the employment opportunities for Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders across the Arts Portfolio.
- To fast-track the development of Indigenous arts trainers to bring cultural strength, understanding and protocols into the training of Indigenous arts students.

6. Protocols

The Arts Portfolio will adhere to the Queensland Government protocols for consulting with Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. Arts Portfolio staff will observe and engage in appropriate communication and cultural respect protocols while in Indigenous communities and relevant arts and cultural environments.

In addition, the Arts Portfolio will follow cultural respect protocols to acknowledge country and include welcome to country by a respected elder from the land on which an event is being held, and provide an acknowledgment of country by the facilitator or convenor at all major events, conferences, workshops and meetings.

The following sector-specific protocols will also guide the work of the Arts Portfolio:

- *National Association for the Visual Arts* protocols to guide non-Indigenous people in their relationships with Indigenous artists, and assist Indigenous artists to define their rights
- *Australia Council for the Arts* protocols which provide principles across five Indigenous art forms
- *Australian Film Commission* protocols for the film industry (2003)
- *Protocols for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Collections*, State Library of Queensland (2007)
- *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Protocols for Libraries, Archives and Information Services*, Australian Library Information Association (1995)
- *National Policy Framework for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Library Services and Collections*, National and State Libraries Australasia (2006)
- *Principles and Guidelines for Australian Museums working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Heritage*, Museums Australia (2005).

7. Definitions

Arts – a broad subdivision of culture composed of many expressive disciplines. It encompasses all forms of creative practice, cultural and artistic expression and activity.

Culture – a way of life, the important patterns and symbols that reflect knowledge, ideas, beliefs, values, spirituality, standards and responses. Culture is all the behaviours, arts, beliefs, and institutions of a population that are passed down from generation to generation.

Creative practice – This includes activities carried out as an expression of cultural values and creativity. It includes (but is not limited to) visual arts, public art, music, dance, writing, craft, theatre, contemporary media and multi-arts, events, festivals, exhibitions and the design of the built environment.

Cultural heritage – Indigenous, historic, aesthetic, scientific and social values expressed in places and their associated objects. Cultural heritage is based on aspects of our past that we want to keep, appreciate and enjoy today and pass on to future generations. Those aspects of our past might evoke special meaning for us as individuals or as members of a community, and reflect particular customs or beliefs. Natural resources are an intrinsic part of traditional owners' connection to their ancestral homelands. Queensland hosts a tremendous store of Indigenous and other cultural heritage.

Appendix 1 – Policy context and links

Queensland Government

Legislation, policies and plans

The *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003* and the *Torres Strait Islander Cultural Heritage Act 2003* recognise and protect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage, and establish workable processes for dealing with cultural heritage matters.

Creative Queensland: The Queensland Government Cultural Policy 2002 expresses a vision for Queensland to be a culturally dynamic place, rich in diversity and experiences – where ideas and talent are supported; artistic and cultural pursuits are encouraged; and the economy is enhanced by excellence in creative innovation.

Indigenous Learning and the Arts Strategic Plan (2008–2011) sets out priority areas for building strong Indigenous communities supported by learning and the arts. It aims to improve education, training and employment outcomes for all Indigenous Queenslanders, develop a departmental workforce skilled in maximising educational and training outcomes, and strengthen Indigenous arts and culture.

Indigenous Partnership Agreement (2007–2010) is a partnership between the Queensland Government and 19 nominated Indigenous communities to reduce the disparity between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people of Queensland.

Queensland Arts Industry Sector Development Plan 2007–2009 sets a clear direction for the Government and the arts sector to work together to develop arts and culture in Queensland. One of the plan's six strategic priorities is to promote strong Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts and culture.

Queensland – Closing the Gap – In late 2007, the Queensland Government, together with all other state and territory governments and the Australian Government, committed to a concerted national Indigenous reform agenda through the Council of Australian Governments (COAG), to close the gap on Indigenous disadvantage. As part of this commitment, COAG agreed to the following six targets:

- close the gap in life expectancy within a generation
- halve the gap in mortality rates for Indigenous children under five within a decade
- ensure all Indigenous four-year-olds in remote communities have access to early childhood education within five years
- halve the gap in reading, writing and numeracy achievements for Indigenous children within a decade
- halve the gap for Indigenous students in Year 12 attainment or equivalent attainment rates by 2020
- halve the gap in employment outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians within a decade.

Queensland Indigenous Arts Marketing and Export Agency – QIAMEA's aim is to build long-term relationships with key organisations and the arts industry to present and promote the very best of Queensland's Indigenous arts. It develops marketing and exporting strategies for the arts market to achieve new opportunities for Indigenous artists from Queensland, while maintaining Indigenous cultural integrity within the Indigenous arts export industry. It acts as a conduit between Government, the arts industry and Indigenous communities to raise the profile of Indigenous artists from Queensland.

Reports

Arts, Business, Culture – A Research Report on an Indigenous Cultural Industry in Queensland (May 1997) – Arts Queensland

I Just Want to Paint (February 2005), A report on Indigenous arts and cultural practice and needs in far north Queensland for UMI Arts Ltd, by Felicity Wright

Not Selling Cakes (November 2006) – Indigenous Art Centres Study, Positive Solutions

Federal government

Policies and plans

Bilateral Agreement on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Service Delivery between the Commonwealth of Australia and the Government of Queensland (2005–2010) is underpinned by the six key principles contained within the **National Framework of Principles for Government Service Delivery to Indigenous Australians** (COAG 2004) including:

- sharing responsibility
- harnessing the mainstream
- streamlining service delivery
- establishing transparency and accountability
- developing a learning framework
- focusing on priority areas.

Closing the Gap is a commitment by all state and territory governments and the Australian Government to close the gap on Indigenous disadvantage across urban, rural and remote areas within a generation.

Draft Framework for National Cooperation in Arts & Culture (Cultural Ministers Council, 2006) features Indigenous arts and culture as one of the four priority areas. Strategies include to:

- ensure appropriate business models are applied to Indigenous arts
- acknowledge the centrality of the arts in Indigenous communities
- acknowledge the importance of Indigenous cultural industries to the Australian economy and ensure Indigenous artists reap the economic benefits of their creative enterprise
- ensure Indigenous arts and culture provide social benefits to Indigenous communities
- support Indigenous cultural revival and maintenance
- build awareness and understanding of the contribution of Indigenous arts.

National Aboriginal Art Centres Strategy and Action Plan is a coordinated government approach to building a strong and sustainable Indigenous visual arts sector characterised by a stable and profitable base of Indigenous art centres producing and distributing works of artistic excellence. Key result areas include:

- stabilised funding
- business management
- employment and training
- professional art practice
- community capacity and maintenance of culture
- data collection and research.

Reports

Inquiry into the Indigenous Visual Arts and Craft Sector (November 2006) – Senate Standing Committee on the Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts

Indigenous Australian Art Commercial Code of Conduct (2008) – National Association for the Visual Arts Australia

National Policy Framework for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Library Services and Collections (2006) – a guide to library institutions in their planning and approaches to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander library services and collections.

Appendix 2 – The Arts Portfolio

The Arts Portfolio within the Department of the Premier and Cabinet includes Arts Queensland, five arts statutory bodies, and four government shareholding companies.

Arts Queensland

Arts Queensland strives to build a strong and diverse arts sector which celebrates Queensland's unique identity and cultural heritage, drives a thriving creative economy, develops the creative capital of Queensland communities and enriches the lives of all Queenslanders.

Arts Queensland:

- assists the Minister in setting the Government's strategic direction for arts and culture in Queensland
- advises Government on policy to stimulate development of the arts and cultural sector
- oversees and reports on the Queensland Government's investment in arts and culture and ensures the best use of public funds
- works in partnership with the arts and culture sector to promote the state's arts and cultural activity and build recognition of the value of arts and culture
- delivers the Government's arts and culture agenda through developing and administering funding programs and capital works programs.

Arts statutory authorities

Queensland Art Gallery

The Queensland Art Gallery is Queensland's premier visual arts institution and a leading art museum nationally. The gallery's driving philosophy is to connect art and people.

The Gallery of Modern Art, which opened in December 2006, complements the Queensland Art Gallery building. Situated at Kurilpa Point only 150 metres from the Queensland Art Gallery building, the Gallery of Modern Art focuses on the art of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries.

The Queensland Art Gallery is committed to profiling Indigenous Australian art and strengthening relationships with Queensland's Indigenous communities.

The gallery is recognised as an international leader in presenting innovative museum-based learning programs for children. These programs are coordinated through the Children's Art Centre. Developing youth audiences for visual art is another priority for the gallery and this is achieved through programs such as the annual Prime event. The gallery is also committed to ensuring all Queenslanders have access to the collection. Travelling exhibitions tour to regional and remote centres of the state.

The Queensland Museum

The Queensland Museum provides a link between our past and our future through scholarly research and collection acquisition; and brings to life different times, places and people presented through exhibitions and other public programs across six campuses throughout the state. The museum aims to enrich and enliven the cultural and intellectual life of all Queenslanders.

The Queensland Museum is committed to affirming respect for Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders and their cultures. Priorities include increasing access to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander collections, further developing partnerships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, and maintaining a comprehensive program for the repatriation of ancestral remains and secret sacred objects from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander collections.

The Cultures and Histories program has responsibility for the investigation, documentation and promotion of Queensland's cultural diversity, and undertakes primary research into Queensland cultural heritage. The Cultures and Histories program collects and cares for examples of tangible and intangible cultural heritage, and is a significant resource for Aboriginal and Torres

Strait Islander communities, researchers, teachers and students, and people with an interest in Queensland histories, societies and cultures.

Dandiiri Maiwar (Queensland Museum South Bank) and Binangar (Cobb+Co Museum, Toowoomba) are vibrant and living Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultures Centres showcasing traditional and contemporary experiences, perspectives and cultures.

The Queensland Performing Arts Centre

The Queensland Performing Arts Centre (QPAC) encourages creative potential and enriches our cultural life. QPAC has two main functions — as a venue for hire and as a producer of cultural product.

As a venue, QPAC hosts an array of performances by local, national and international companies and artists, and has a reputation for providing the right mix of location, space and service.

Operating under a unique curatorial framework, QPAC also plays an important role in enriching Queensland's cultural life by partnering with companies and artists to bring their work to Brisbane, as well as fully producing a range of works across a variety of art forms.

QPAC has partnered, produced and presented performing arts works with local and national Indigenous artists and companies through its programming activities, including the Out of the Box Festival for 3 to 8 year olds. QPAC has a formal relationship with the Aboriginal Centre for Performing Arts (ACPA) to support young and emerging Indigenous artists and has a co-presenting relationship with the Musgrave Park Cultural Centre. QPAC also supports the biennial presentation of the Anti-Discrimination Commission Queensland's Mabo Oration.

Queensland Theatre Company

Queensland Theatre Company is the state's flagship professional theatre company, established in 1970 by an Act of Parliament. Each year the company presents an annual mainstage season of nine plays showcasing an array of acclaimed theatre artists and offering a dynamic mix of plays from exciting new Australian work to outstanding international classics.

The company is also dedicated to encouraging artistic development across the state through its emerging artists program, regional program and writing program which includes the Queensland Premier's Drama Award.

The State Library of Queensland

The State Library of Queensland is committed to the belief that an empowered and progressive society depends on creative thinking and the sharing of knowledge. In creating its vision Enriching the Lives of Queenslanders, the State Library is committed to building a network of physical and virtual spaces, creatively linking diverse groups of Queenslanders to information, knowledge and each other.

Within the three desired outcomes of *Learning for All*, *Queensland Memory: Today for Tomorrow*, and *Community Connections*, the State Library has committed to:

- continuing to partner with Aboriginal and Island Councils to establish and develop Indigenous Knowledge Centres in Cape York and the Torres Strait, providing library services to these remote communities for the first time
- supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in collecting, managing and preserving cultural and historical knowledge
- recognising the intangible and vibrant forms in which traditional and contemporary Indigenous knowledge can be collected and communicated
- supporting and liaising with public libraries and other organisations to improve access to library and information services for Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders.

Government shareholding companies

Pacific Film and Television Commission

The Pacific Film and Television Commission's (PFTC) vision is to be a world leader in initiating, facilitating and celebrating a sustainable creative film industry. The underlying principle of this

vision is to create an environment where filmmakers can create, produce, market and exhibit their work.

The PFTC recognises the importance of the development of Indigenous practitioners in screen production, and is committed to getting Indigenous stories on screen as part of its objectives to develop a sustainable screen industry in the state and to develop a screen culture for audiences.

This is achieved through providing development and production funding to Indigenous writers, directors and producers to create and produce Indigenous screen projects; continuing PFTC's partnerships with the Indigenous unit of the Australian Film Commission, the ABC and SBS; and supporting the screening of Indigenous content to Queensland audiences at film festivals including the Brisbane International Film Festival (BIFF) and Cine Sparks.

The Aboriginal Centre for the Performing Arts

The Aboriginal Centre for the Performing Arts is an inspirational centre of excellence and innovation in the Australian Indigenous performing arts, committed to the development of world-class artists, embracing Indigenous cultural achievement and contributing to Australia's future cultural identity.

ACPA provides a welcoming, stimulating and supportive learning environment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students who are committed to becoming the best in the performing arts industry in their selected genres. For those who have a burning desire to perform, ACPA provides the necessary skills, knowledge and industry networks to enable the development of a career in the wider contemporary performing arts.

ACPA provides a nurturing environment for students that celebrates artistic excellence in contemporary performing arts practice and training, and creates new work that gives a 'voice' to the next generation of Indigenous Australian performing artists.

Major Brisbane Festivals Pty Ltd

Major Brisbane Festivals Pty Ltd produces the Brisbane Festival, one of Australia's leading international arts festivals. The annual festival places great emphasis on creating new work, accessibility and facilitating exchanges between local, national and international artists and companies. The festival endeavours to include the entire community in its program of activities by having intellectual and artistic debate, national and international artistic dialogue and extremely broad grassroots support. It is one of the most inclusive and diverse arts festivals in Australia.

Queensland Music Festival Pty Ltd

Queensland Music Festival (QMF) is a statewide celebration of musical excellence. It is a major cultural and artistic success story with a national and international reputation, unparalleled geographic reach, and an extensive range of performances taking place every two years.

Throughout Queensland, the festival ignites creative potential. In collaboration with partners of all kinds and the community at large, QMF inspires participation in music-making and performance that reflects local culture and tells local stories. The majority of events are free.

QMF makes the joy of music accessible to all, creates unique shared experiences that connect people with place and community, and celebrates the richness and diversity of Queensland's musical, cultural and geographical landscapes.

QMF has a statewide community commitment to creating:

- unique cultural experiences for Queenslanders from all walks of life
- a lasting legacy of cultural excellence and a sense of identity
- cross-cultural understanding, in particular with Indigenous Australians
- extensive educational opportunities for young people across the state.

In previous years, QMF has produced and sponsored many performances with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists and communities, and will continue to do so. Beyond the festival performances themselves, QMF maintains a number of long-term projects with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities including Thursday Island, Charleville and Cooktown.