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Drama Australia Statement on Drama Education and the 2019 Federal Election

Drama Australia is the national association for Drama Education representing drama educators across Australia. Drama Australia provides quality and research-informed professional learning to Drama educators and practitioners. The association is a volunteer, not-for-profit professional teaching association, which represents, supports and advocates on behalf of all Drama educators in primary, secondary, tertiary and community contexts.

Drama Australia recommends arts education policy changes and advocates for the development of a new national arts and cultural policy that provides a blueprint for arts investment and development into the future. The incomplete implementation of the *Australian Curriculum: The Arts* has highlighted several areas of concern.

Drama Australia recommend that all political parties commit to increase Federal funding for:

- Drama Education professional learning programs for primary teachers in particular recognising the significant impact drama education programs can have for increasing student literacies.
- Drama Education and Arts Education student learning and teacher professional learning programs.
- Arts organisations which provide quality education and engagement programs for students.
- Programs such as Creative Communities Partnerships (former Australia Council program) and Artist-in-Residence programs for schools and communities, particularly First Nations artists, to improve teacher professional learning in the arts by strengthening and sustaining arts pedagogies with creative impacts for learners.

Drama Australia recommend that all political parties commit to the stipulation that:

- The Arts (as in the *Australian Curriculum: The Arts* – Dance, Drama, Media Arts, Music and Visual Arts) be recognised as an area of primary specialisation for initial teacher education program accreditation (Program Standard 4.4.) in all States and Territories.
- A shift of focus from STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) to STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, **Arts** and Maths).
- Research of the implementation of the *Australian Curriculum: The Arts* nationally to ensure equitable practice and access for all Australian young people.

Drama Australia recommend all political parties commit to reviewing targeted commonwealth funding programs that provide funding for specific arts education initiatives to ensure an open tender process and opportunities be made available for all arts areas.

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