



22 November 2019

STATEMENT FROM THE DRAMA AUSTRALIA BOARD

RE: Defunding Australian Plays, Playwriting Australia and Ausdance National

Earlier this year, 412 arts organisations submitted an Expression of Interest (EOIs) in 2021-2024 operational funding from the Australia Council for the Arts. Over 60% of these EOIs were unsuccessful, including many from companies that had previously been funded and whose track records are demonstrably excellent.

Drama Australia is particularly concerned at the challenges faced by Australian Plays, Playwriting Australia and Ausdance National, three key service organisations whose work has been vitally important for drama and dance education in this country but whose EOIs for 2021-2024 funding were unsuccessful.

[Australian Plays](#) houses the largest online collection of Australian dramatic texts in the world, providing easy access to playscripts, monologues, interviews and other resources that are used in Drama and English classrooms across Australia.

[Playwriting Australia](#) has a central role in the ecosystem of developing new Australian plays and supporting playwrights throughout their careers.

[Ausdance National](#) is the peak service organisation for dance and dance education in Australia. For 42 years, Ausdance National has supported the development of the dance industry and dance education.

The Drama Australia Board asserts that defunding these service organisations will have profoundly negative consequences for the operation and creative advancement of the arts and arts education sectors. We request that the Federal Government commits funding to The Australia Council for the Arts that would ensure that these organisations and many like them are not forced to close their doors and withdraw their essential supports for the arts across Australia.

We encourage members of the Drama Australia community to consider communicating their concerns with the Minister for Communications, Cyber Safety and the arts, Hon Paul Fletcher MP (Paul.Fletcher.MP@aph.gov.au) and Chief Executive Officer of the Australia Council for the Arts, Adrian Collette AM (a.collette@australiacouncil.gov.au).

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