

TO: Kathy Keele, CEO
Australia Council for the Arts

DATE: 31 March 2010

FROM: AUSTRALIAN PLAYWRIGHTS

Australian Playwrights need your urgent assistance. The undersigned Playwrights, members of the Australian Writer's Guild, have learned that the Australia Council for the Arts has cut Key Organisational Funding for our Guild. In the past the Australia Council has supported our industrial, professional development and communications projects for playwrights through tri-annual funding. In 2010 we have in fact been refused the opportunity to even re-apply.

- The Guild is the only national membership organisation in Australia representing the interests of Playwrights and has a proud history of doing so for almost 50 years.
- The Guild is run for writers by writers, with a democratically elected board made up entirely of working practitioners.
- The Guild clearly and demonstrably meets all the Council's criteria for key organisational funding.
- The Australia Council is the only source of funding for the Guild's playwrights to supplement our membership fees. Without a reliable source of organisational funding the core programs the Guild offers playwrights will not be possible.
- We note that a number of the organisations that have been invited to apply for Key Organisational Funding do not meet several of the essential criteria as set by the Australia Council. Several are not operating nationally, do not have a national constituency, do not have any track record of service delivery in the field for which they have been selected, and do not have the required funding from sources other than the Australia Council.
- Our organisation meets all those essential criteria and many of the additional/optional criteria, such as a national magazine with distribution many times in excess of the minimum criteria.
- Don't get us wrong – we support the work of these organisations and wish them future success. But Australian taxpayer funds should be distributed fairly and according to the Australia Council's own guidelines.
- We are very pleased to see that Playwriting Australia has been invited to apply for Key Organisational Funding. Some of us have been fortunate enough to benefit from their development support and advice and their exceptional efforts to shepherd the best of our plays to the Australian audience. But Playwriting Australia's mandate is very different from that of the Australian Writers' Guild. It does not purport to be able to substitute for the support, leadership and

guidance that our Guild provides for all members – from emerging aspirants to the most experienced playwrights. That is to say it should be supported as well as, not in place of the AWG.

We are also concerned that, because – in a exchange in 2009 - our Guild questioned the propriety of some communications between Australia Council decision makers and interested parties, there is, at the very least, the appearance of a conflict of interest in the selection of those organisations eligible to apply for Key Organisational Funding, and in particular in the Guild’s absence from the list.

We know that funds for the arts are not limitless – but the Australia Council’s actions have put one of the few targeted, member-responsive avenues of support for professional Playwrights at risk and we question the process, rationale and wisdom of this decision.

A viable, innovative Australian Theatre Industry depends on the development and support of Australia’s playwrights. Please lend us your support. We request an urgent opportunity for a delegation to meet with you and for a review of the decision.

Thank you for your time and consideration:

1	Donna	ABELA
2	Geoffrey	ATHERDEN
3	Van	BADHAM
4	Vanessa	BATES
5	Hilary	BELL
6	Jonathan	BIGGINS
7	Michael	BODDY
8	Andrew	BOVELL
9	Patricia	CORNELIUS
10	Reginald	CRIBB
11	John	DOYLE
12	Noelle	JANACZEWSKA
13	Lally	KATZ
14	Verity	LAUGHTON
15	Sally	MCKENZIE
16	Suzie	MILLER
17	Kate	MULVANY
18	Errol	O’NEILL
19	Debra	OSWALD
20	Nicholas	PARSONS
21	Hannie	RAYSON
22	Kate	RICE
23	Stephen	SEWELL
24	Katherine	THOMSON
25	John	UPTON
26	Alana	VALENTINE
27	Marcus	WEST
28	David	WILLIAMSON

29	Peter	YELDHAM
30	Lois	ACHIMOVICH
31	Rod	AINSWORTH
32	Pablo	ALBERS
33	Erika	ALEXANDER
34	David	ALLEN
35	Carol	ANDERSON
36	Sonia Louise	ARMSTRONG
37	Clare	ATKINS
38	Greg	AUSTIN
39	Janis	BALODIS
40	Elizabeth	BAN
41	Nadia	BARLOW
42	Sarah	BARTON
43	Roxy	BENT
44	Katherine	BENTON
45	Sonia	BIBLE
46	Guy	BIRKS
47	John	BISHOP
48	Dave	BLOUSTIEN
49	Susanna	BONARETTI
50	Michael	BRINDLEY
51	Chris	BROADSTOCK
52	Adam	BROINOWSKI
53	David	BROWN
54	Jennifer	BULLIMORE
55	Rick	BURCHALL
56	Teni	BURNS
57	Josh	BUTT
58	Simon	BUTTERS
59	Paul	CAESAR
60	Colin	CAIRNES
61	Elspeth	CALENDER
62	Donna	CAMERON
63	Nicholas	CANNY
64	Stephen	CARLETON
65	Patrick	CARR
66	Luciano	CELENTINO
67	Penelope	CHAI
68	Kaaren	CHAMPION
69	Kyle	CLASKY
70	Pierre	COCHRANE
71	Elizabeth	COLEMAN
72	Warren	COLEMAN
73	Scott	COLLINS
74	Emma	CORDERO

75	Michael	COVE
76	P P	CRANNEY
77	James	CROKE
78	Christine	CUNNINGHAM
79	Paul	DAVIES
80	Margaret	DAVIS
81	Philip	DEAN
82	Kim Michelle	DENMAN
83	Gianfranco	DI IORIO
84	Allen	DICKSON
85	Simon	DODD
86	Sean	DOOLEY
87	Patrick	EDGEWORTH
88	Ruth	ESTELLE
89	Lucy	EYRE
90	Sally	FARADAY
91	Catherine	FARGHER
92	Gary	FILES
93	Catherine M	FITZGERALD
94	Justin	FLEMING
95	Frank	FORD
96	Michael	FORDE
97	Annie	FOX
98	Louise	FOX
99	Tricia	FOX
100	Grant	FRASER
101	Dean	FRISKE
102	Peter	FYFE
103	Bill	GARNER
104	Kimberly	GELVIN- MELVILLE
105	Rob	GEORGE
106	Andrea	GILLIES
107	David	GOLDIE
108	Sofya	GOLLAN
109	Tim	GOODING
110	Louise	GOUGH
111	Kristy	GRAY
112	Geoffrey	GREAVES
113	Geoffrey	GREAVES
114	Gerry	GREENLAND
115	Mac	GUDGEON
116	Roz	HALL FARLAM
117	David	HANNAM
118	Bill	HARDING
119	Eris	HARRISON
120	Gerard	HARTLEY

121	Jean Susan	HAUGHTON
122	Trevor	HAWKINS
123	Scott	HIGGINS
124	John Albert	HILTON
125	Matthew	HOLMES
126	Warwick	HOLT
127	Jane	HOPKINS
128	Leonie	HURRY
129	Steve	JODRELL
130	Rosemary	JOHNS
131	Richard	JORDAN
132	Matthew Richard	JOSEPH
133	Barry	KAY
134	Mary	KILEY
135	Fred	KNIGHT
136	Ingle	KNIGHT
137	Vinay	KOLHATKAR
138	Finegan	KRUCKEMEYER
139	Cameron	LAIRD
140	Andrea	LEMON
141	Rebecca	LISTER
142	Sandra	LONG
143	Mari	LOUREY
144	Nathan	LUFF
145	Matthew	MACKNAMARA
146	Ian	MACNEILL
147	Dr Patrick	MAHER
148	Claire	MALLON
149	Ned	MANNING
150	Lucy	MARINELLI
151	Jasper	MARLOW
152	Geoffrey	MARTIN
153	Kathryn	MARTIN
154	Valda	MAUDSON
155	Geraldine	MC BURNEY FRY
156	Stephanie	MCCARTHY
157	Ronald	MCGRATH
158	David	MCROBBIE
159	Anne- Louise	MCWILLIAM
160	Stephen	MEASDAY
161	Sam	MEIKLE
162	Stuart	MENTHA
163	Martha - Ann	MILLER
164	Noeline	MILSON
165	Stephen	MITCHELL
166	Dorian	MODE

167	Christine	MOFFAT
168	Peter	MOON
169	Lynda	MORGAN
170	Tony	MORPHETT
171	Melvyn	MORROW
172	Merrilee	MOSS
173	Ross	MUELLER
174	Shannon	MURDOCH
175	Marty	MURPHY
176	Paddy	MURPHY
177	Geraldine	MURRAY
178	Peta	MURRAY
179	Valentino	MUSICO
180	Guy	O' DONNELL
181	Anne	O'HOY
182	Michael	O'ROURKE
183	Michaeley	O'BRIEN
184	Hugh	O'BRIEN
185	Michelle	OFFEN
186	Jack	OPIE
187	Marion	ORD
188	Felicity	PACKARD
189	Ashlee	PAGE
190	Rosalind	PAGE
191	Betty	PALM
192	Dave	PATERSON
193	Melissa	PEARSON
194	Sharon	PEERS
195	Sean	PETER
196	Carol	PHILLIPS
197	Natasha	PHILLIPS
198	Lachlan	PHILPOTT
199	Katie	POLLOCK
200	John	PRATT
201	Jeremy	PRESS
202	Peter c	PUGSLEY
203	Tim	PYE
204	Barbara	RAMSAY
205	Jolly	READ
206	Geoffrey	REED
207	Caroline	REID
208	Walter	RENFREY
209	Sue	RIDER
210	David	ROBERTS
211	Triny	ROE
212	Virginia	ROSE

213	Camilla	ROUNTREE
214	Teresa	RUSSELL
215	Catherine	RYAN
216	Phil	SANDERS
217	Gina	SCHIEN
218	Marcus	SCHUTENKO
219	Gil	SCRINE
220	Yvonne	SELECKI
221	Peter	SHEEHAN
222	Nir	SHELTER
223	Beth	SHEPHERD
224	Luke	SIMON
225	Roger	SIMPSON
226	sue	SMITH
227	Paul Anthony	SPINKS
228	Linda	STAINTON
229	Nick	STEVENS
230	Susan	STEVENSON
231	Derek	STRAHAN
232	Chris	THOMPSON
233	Lisa	THOMPSON
234	Trevor	THOMPSON
235	Marilyn	TOFLER
236	Meg	TRIMBLE
237	Peter	TROTT
238	Helen	TURNER
239	Shirley	VAN SANDEN
240	Rozamund	WARING
241	Margaret	WATTS
242	Helen	WENTLAND
243	Julie	WHITEHEAD
244	Linden	WILKINSON
245	Christopher	WILLIAMS
246	James	WILLIAMS
247	Scott	WILLIAMSON
248	Peter	WILSON
249	Kim	WILSON
250	Rochelle	WILTSHIRE
251	Robyn	WINSLOW
252	Michael	WINTER
253	Steven Kenward	WOMERSLEY
254	Greg	WOODLAND
255	Brian	WRIGHT
256	Mary	ZEGURA
257	Michael	ZEITZ
258	Catherine	ZIMDAHL

