

Kim Beazley's Plan for the Arts

Kim Beazley's Plan For The Arts

Index

| | |
|--|------------|
| Overview | 1. |
| Championing the Arts | 1. |
| The Howard Government Failures | 3. |
| Kim Beazley's Plan for the Arts | 4. |
| Australia Council | 4. |
| Riverside Theatres, Parramatta | 6. |
| Australian Film Industry | 7. |
| Australian Film and Television Content Regulations | 7. |
| Parallel Importation of Film Products | 8. |
| Contemporary Music | 8. |
| Visual Arts and Crafts | 9. |
| Indigenous Art and Culture | 10. |
| Regional Arts | 11. |
| Intellectual Property | 12. |
| Costing | 14. |

Overview

CHAMPIONING THE ARTS

The most fundamental change that will occur under Labor will be recognition from the Prime Minister of the contribution of the creative industries to our identity, community and economy.

Labor is aware of the contribution artists make to improving Australia's quality of life, our economic performance and our international standing.

Labor will make our culture a source of pride and an avenue of participation for all Australians.

Labor will actively promote and champion the arts within Government and the wider community.

Labor will re-establish the role of the Commonwealth in cultural policy, a field effectively abandoned by the Howard Government.

The first challenge for Labor will not be to focus on catchy new proposals, but rather to draw a line in the sand and begin to repair the damage to Australia's cultural identity and our creative industries by the Howard Government.

Knowledge Nation

Labor sees art and culture - the creative industries - playing a significant role in Australia becoming a Knowledge Nation. Unlike the Howard Government's Innovation Statement, where there was no reference to the arts at all, the Knowledge Nation Taskforce Report outlines the importance of the arts to a successful Australia in the 21st Century.

Governments must recognise the importance of authors, journalists, historians, poets, playwrights, designers, software developers, dancers, composers, musicians, visual artists and others to 'innovation' and the 'knowledge nation' .(Barry Jones – Knowledge Nation Taskforce)

Cooperative Federalism

Labor also makes a commitment to a new Cooperative Federalism in relation to the arts. Labor believes that more can be achieved with all levels of Government working together.

Labor is committed to the importance of the Cultural Ministers' Council and will ensure it meets regularly and is an active participant in major issues relating to art and culture.

Through the States, Labor is also committed to working more effectively with local government.

Labor will involve the Cultural Ministers' Council in the current Inquiry into Contemporary Arts and Crafts.

Labor will raise with the Cultural Ministers' Council a proposal to establish an inquiry into second and third tier performing arts companies.

The Howard Government has abandoned Commonwealth support for the Heritage Collections Council.

Labor will reinvigorate the Heritage Collections Council, or a similar body, to ensure the Commonwealth is involved in the development of Australia's heritage collections.

The Future

Labor will begin the task of repairing the damage that has been inflicted over the past five years on the institutions and individuals that contribute to our understanding of our quality of life, our creative industries and us.

Labor in government will build the basis for a new era for the arts, which will see the arts and the creative industries flourish in Australia in the 21st Century.

The Howard Government's Failures

After nearly six years of the Howard Government it is appropriate to acknowledge the remarkable survival of the arts and the creative industries in the face of adversity.

The Howard Government has run down Australia's national identity by neglecting our core cultural institutions.

The Howard Government has not understood the importance of artists and the creative industries to the success of Australia in the 21st Century.

The Howard Government has misread the Australian people's desire to see and hear our own stories.

The Howard Government neglected the arts for nearly six years and inflicted significant damage on Australia's major cultural institutions, such as the ABC, the Australia Council and the Australian Film Commission.

With the election in sight, the Howard Government has 'rediscovered' the arts and made a commitment to the film industry.

The Howard Government has never understood the importance of intellectual property to the future of successful countries in the 21st Century.

The Howard Government has done nothing for visual artists except initiate a review that conveniently straddles the election.

The Howard Government has totally abandoned any commitment to contemporary music.

The Howard Government has no coherent arts policy. Over the years it has announced a random collection of one-off initiatives for areas of the arts that were in the public eye, but there has been no vision statement of broader understanding of the role of the arts in a modern society and a modern economy.

Kim Beazley's Plan for the Arts

AUSTRALIA COUNCIL

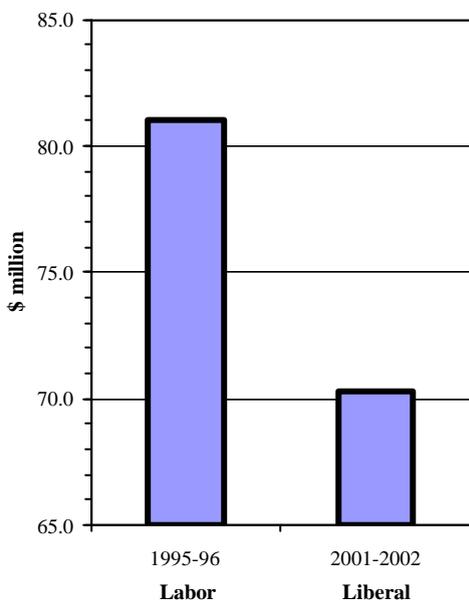
The Australia Council is the Commonwealth's primary arts funding body which funds individual artists and arts organisations at arm's length from Government through peer assessment.

It is the main Commonwealth vehicle for providing assistance to artists to contribute to the richness of Australia's cultural identity.

The Howard Government has cut core funding to the Australia Council. In 1995/96 Labor's funding for the Australia Council was \$72.9 million. For 2001/02 John Howard allocated \$70.3 million (excludes Major Performing Arts Board).

For funding to have been maintained at 1995/96 levels, the 2001/02 funding would have been \$81 million, not \$70.3 million.

Australia Council Real Funding
Expressed in 2001-02 dollars

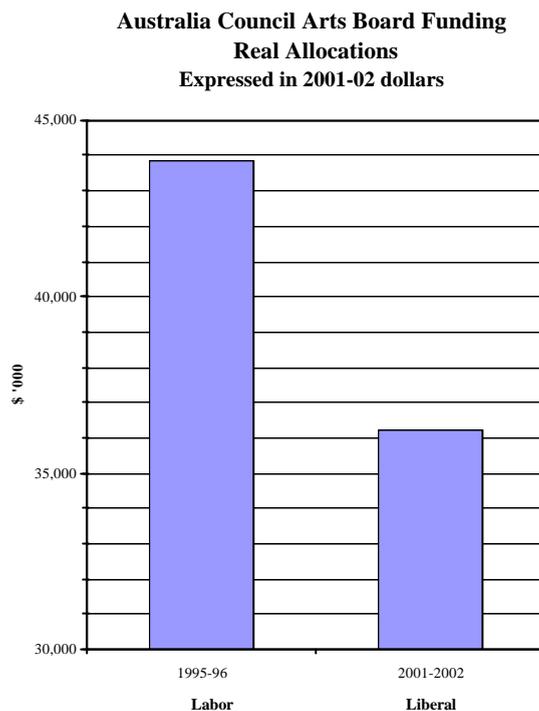


The Howard Government has ripped more than \$35 million out of the Australia Council since 1995 – 96.

In real terms, Howard Government has funded the Australia Council at lower levels than 1995 /96 for its period in office.

Boards of the Australia Council

There are currently nine Boards of the Australia Council comprising the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Board, and the Community Cultural Development, Literature, Visual Arts/Craft, Theatre, Dance, Music, New Media and Major Performing Arts Boards.



The Community Cultural Development, Literature, Visual Arts/Craft, Theatre, Dance and Music Boards are all receiving less funding in 2001/02 than they did in 1995/96.

This means less money for Australian artists and arts organisations and less money for the growth and development of our cultural life and projection of our cultural identity to the rest of the world.

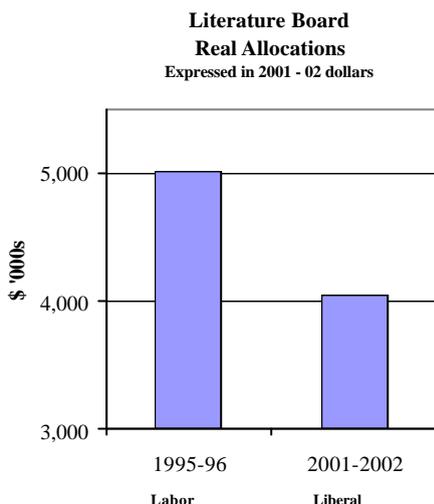
The Howard Government has put on hold the development of Australia's cultural identity.

Support for Writers

Writers have been severely harmed by the Howard Government because they are particularly dependent on the Australia Council for support.

Funding for the Literature Board of the Australia Council dropped from \$4.5 million in 1995/96 to \$4.2 million in 2001/02.

For funding to have been maintained in real terms at 1995/96 levels, 2001/02 funding should have been \$5 million not \$4.2 million.



Labor will support the Australia Council investigating alternative models of providing direct support to writers.

Initiative: Australia Council

Labor will take the Commonwealth's finger off the cultural pause button with a major injection of funds to the Australia Council.

There has been no increase in funding to the Australia Council since 1995/96.

Labor will inject \$20 million into the Australia Council in 2002/03 to shore up the core funding of the Commonwealth's major arts funding institution. This will not be for new programs or specific current program areas.

This money will be available for the Australia Council to strengthen existing support programs and develop new and enhanced means of arts support.

For too long, the Australia Council has been starved of core funding while funds have been provided for specific and one-off programs.

It is time the core funding was restored. This substantial one-off injection, together with an ongoing increase in core funding from 2004/05, will begin to repair the damage inflicted by the Howard Government.

Labor also believes the Australia Council should look at alternative funding options to provide direct support to Australian writers.

PARRAMATTA RIVERSIDE THEATRE

Labor will give \$1 million to the Parramatta Riverside Theatres for much needed refurbishment.

Parramatta is the cultural hub of Western Sydney and has been ignored by the Howard Government over the last five years.

Parramatta Riverside Theatres are central to the cultural viability and cultural life of Parramatta and Western Sydney.

Labor's funding will enable the Parramatta Riverside Theatres to conduct major renovations to take advantage of the major cultural precinct planned around the northern end of Church Street in Parramatta.

The money will be used to improve infrastructure for each of the three theatres and reconfigure the complex to take advantage of income generating possibilities.

Labor recognises that Parramatta and Western Sydney are vibrant cultural regions that require the active support of the Federal Government.

Initiative: Parramatta Riverside Theatres

Labor will give \$1 million to the Parramatta Riverside Theatres for much needed refurbishment.

AUSTRALIAN FILM INDUSTRY

The Howard Government savagely cut more than \$100 million from support for the Australian film industry in the five years since 1995/96.

For example, it cut:

- \$30 million from the Australian Film Commission;
- \$10 million from the Australian Film Finance Corporation; and
- \$60 million from the Commercial Television Production Fund.

Recently, with an election approaching, the Government announced a Film Industry Package.

The Howard Government should not be congratulated for merely addressing a crisis in film that it created.

The missing element in this package was the lack of funds for the ABC.

Labor will go further than this package and announce measures to address the crisis in television and radio production at the ABC. Labor believes Australians want to see and hear our own stories on the ABC.

The Howard Government is also threatening to put Australia's local content regulations on the table in any negotiations with the United States over a possible Free Trade Agreement. Labor, the film industry and the Australian people are horrified the Howard Government would be prepared to trade away Australia's identity.

Labor will begin to repair the Howard Government's damage to the Australian film industry. Labor has a proud history of supporting the film industry and will ensure that it is able to grow and continue to make films that tell Australian stories.

FILM AND TELEVISION LOCAL CONTENT REGULATIONS

Labor will not take any measures to reduce Australian television content rules and will not do anything in trade negotiations to inhibit our ability to fund and support the arts.

The Howard Government's Minister for Trade, Mark Vaile, has raised concern within the film and television industry that the Government is considering putting our local television content rules on the table in trade negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement with the United States.

Labor's position on this issue is clear. While we are open to consideration of free trade negotiations with the United States, there is no possibility of Labor watering down our local content rules.

Labor takes the view that such rules are vital to the maintenance of national culture and the trading system can and should take account of such important cultural issues.

Labor believes that Australians must be able to see Australian stories and hear Australian voices on television and will not water down our local content rules.

PARALLEL IMPORTATION OF FILM PRODUCTS

Labor is concerned the Howard Government has left the door open to extend its ideological push for unrestricted parallel importation to film products. It must be remembered that the Howard Government has systematically introduced unrestricted parallel importing for other industries since 1996.

The Howard Government has already introduced legislation into the Federal Parliament that would allow the parallel importation of films of less than 20 minutes duration.

Labor understands the importance of 'staged release' of film products for the ongoing viability of the Australian film industry.

Labor will not allow the unrestricted parallel importation of film products into Australia.

Initiative: Australian Film Industry

Labor will implement the recently announced Film Industry Package to repair the damage inflicted by five years of Howard Government attacks on the Australian film industry.

Labor will announce initiatives to address the television and radio production crisis at the ABC.

Labor will do nothing to reduce Australian television content rules and will not allow any trade agreements to inhibit our ability to fund and support the arts.

Labor will not allow the unrestricted parallel importation of film products into Australia.

CONTEMPORARY MUSIC

The Howard Government has abandoned its support for contemporary music and has left the music industry to cope with the consequences of its introduction of the parallel importation of CDs.

Labor recognises the importance of contemporary music to Australia's identity and as an industry. The contemporary music industry contributes more than \$1 billion to the economy and employs thousands of Australians.

The Howard Government has cut programs to assist Australian bands to tour regionally leaving many Australian regional centres out of reach of most tours.

Initiative: Contemporary Music

Parallel Importation of CDs – Labor will remove the Government's ideologically driven policy of unrestricted parallel importation of CDs which has not led to cheaper CDs for consumers but a doubling of the percentage of piracy and less royalties for Australian songwriters and artists.

Use it or Lose it

Labor's **'Use it or Lose it'** policy for parallel importation will extend the regime Labor put in place for books in 1991 to CDs, software, computer games, sheet music and periodicals.

Contemporary Music Development Fund - Labor will provide \$5.5 million over four years to provide grants of between \$5,000 and \$50,000 to Australian bands to tour regionally and nationally. The grants will be administered by the Audience Development Division of the Australia Council and an advisory panel of experienced people from within the music industry

ArtStart – Labor will trial a proposal to allow contemporary musicians who can demonstrate they are attempting to establish a career and who meet a strict activity test to retain unemployment benefits.

Visa Requirements for Foreign Bands - Labor will change visa requirements to ensure that foreign touring bands and artists have secured a local support act at the time they apply for their visa. We will make it mandatory for local support acts to be included in all tour publicity.

Music Content Rules for Radio – Many Australian bands and artists find it difficult to get radio stations to back their recent releases. Therefore Labor will increase the Australian quota from 25 per cent to 30 per cent for Mainstream Rock, Contemporary Hits, Top 40 and Alternative Format radio stations (Category A) and retain the requirement that no less than 25 per cent of this should be of music released in the last year. New agreements will also be reached to ensure the quota is maintained evenly throughout the day.

Tasmanian Centre for Contemporary Music - Labor will provide \$500,000 in 2001/02 to Tasmania TAFE to establish a Centre for Contemporary Music in Inveresk as part of its established arts precinct.

VISUAL ARTS AND CRAFTS

Visual artists have been left behind by the Howard Government. According to a recent Australian Bureau of Statistics report, Culture and Centenary Article, Public Funding of the Arts 1900 – 2000, by economist David Throsby, the proportion of Government arts funding going to the visual arts and crafts has dropped from 5.3 per cent under Labor in 1995-96 to 4.2 per cent under the Howard Government in 1998-99.

Labor, while welcoming the Inquiry into the Contemporary Arts and Crafts Sector, views the action of the Howard Government timing of the inquiry to straddle the Federal election as a cynical exercise from a Government that has done next to nothing for visual artists for nearly six years.

Labor acknowledges the work of the National Association for the Visual Arts in their work compiling the recently released 'Code of Practice for the Australian Visual Arts and Craft Sector'.

Unlike the Howard Government, Labor will be going to the Federal Election with some concrete initiatives for visual artists.

Initiative: Visual Arts and Crafts

Community Artbank – Labor will provide Artbank with an additional \$1 million to purchase art from visual artists for display in public places. This will provide income for visual artists and access to visual art for the public. This will be a one-off injection into the visual arts that can be spent over three years by Artbank.

Inquiry into the Contemporary Visual Arts and Crafts Sector – Labor welcomes the inquiry and looks forward to the opportunity to implement its findings.

Status of the Artist – Labor will examine the recommendations of the Inquiry with regard to a proposal for Status of the Artist legislation. In the event the Inquiry makes no positive recommendation on this matter, Labor will look to alternative ways of dealing with problems which visual artists face in areas such as social security, tax and superannuation.

Resale Royalty – Labor will look to the Inquiry to provide a practical basis for the introduction of a Resale Royalty so that artists have an ongoing financial interest in the resale of their work.

INDIGENOUS ARTS AND CULTURE

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art and culture are a significant part of Australia's identity both for ourselves and to the rest of the world.

Labor is committed to ensuring that Indigenous cultural property is either returned to Indigenous Australians or that appropriate arrangements are put in place for its care.

Labor is also committed to ensuring that appropriate intellectual property arrangements are put in place that recognise the importance of the communal nature of ownership of Indigenous cultural and artistic material.

Initiatives: Indigenous Art and Culture

Australian Indigenous Cultural Network – The Australian Indigenous Cultural Network will enable Indigenous Australians to access their cultural heritage materials held by collecting bodies in Australia and overseas, and to consolidate and expand their community collections, by using appropriate multi-media technologies.

Labor will share with the States and Territories and private and philanthropic sources the cost of funding the Australian Indigenous Cultural Network to establish and record communities' cultural collections over a four-year period. Five communities in the first year; 10 in the second and 15 in the third and 20 in the fourth.

Total cost over four years for the project is \$7.2 million.

Labor will commit \$3.8 million over four years to this project.

Indigenous Moral Rights – Labor will legislate to recognise moral rights for Indigenous custodians which provide the Indigenous cultural group whose tradition is drawn upon to create a copyright work with rights of attribution, protection against false attribution and protection of cultural integrity (as outlined in *Our Culture: Our Future* – Report on Australian Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property Rights 1998).

Resale Royalty - Labor will look to the recommendations of the Inquiry into the Contemporary Visual Arts and Craft Sector to provide a practical basis for the introduction of a Resale Royalty so that artists have an ongoing financial interest in the resale of their work, which will be particularly important to Indigenous artists.

REGIONAL ARTS

Labor will continue to support the importance of the arts and creative industries in regional Australia.

In addition to the current programs for regional Australia, Labor will introduce specific new initiatives.

ABC

Most importantly, Labor will begin to repair the damage the Howard Government has inflicted on the ABC. Labor believes that all Australians should be able to hear and see Australian stories.

Regional Museums and Galleries

Labor will fund an initiative to assist regional museums and galleries to access curatorial services and training to ensure some of Australia's finest collections get the care they need.

The Regional Museums and Gallery Curatorial Assistance Program will enable regional museums and galleries to have access expert advice so that important objects are not lost to future generations.

Contemporary Music

The Howard Government has abandoned support for bands to tour regionally and nationally. Labor believes that regional Australia should have access to live Australian bands and that emerging bands should be supported to tour regional Australia.

Labor will also provide funding to the Tasmania TAFE to establish a Centre for Contemporary Music in Inveresk as part of its established arts precinct.

Low Head Pilot Station and Norfolk Museum

This project at Low Head, at the mouth of the Tamar River, will restore the pilot station and lighthouse established in 1804. This historic site has been maintained in excellent condition by the Port of Launceston Authority and has recently been transferred to public ownership.

In association with the restoration and interpretation, the pilot station will be a museum housing the replica of the Norfolk used by Bass and Flinders in 1798 to circumnavigate Tasmania. This full-scale replica has been built by Berne Cuthbertson and volunteers.

Indigenous Culture

Labor is committed to ensuring that indigenous cultural property is either returned to Indigenous Australians or that appropriate arrangements are put in place for its care and will fund the Australian Indigenous Cultural Network to enable Indigenous communities to access their cultural heritage materials held by collecting bodies, establish and manage community collections, and use appropriate multi-media technologies.

Initiative: Regional Arts

Regional Museums and Gallery Curatorial Assistance Fund – Labor will commit \$1 million to this fund to enable regional museums and galleries to have access to this expert advice so that important objects are not lost to future generations.

This fund will enable the employment of regionally based curators to assist art galleries and museums to plan the development of their collections and to fund conservation work on regional collections.

Tasmanian Centre for Contemporary Music - Labor will provide \$500,000 in 2001-02 to Tasmania TAFE to establish a Centre for Contemporary Music in Inveresk as part of its established arts precinct.

Low Head Pilot Station and Norfolk Museum – Labor will provide \$500,000 to restore the pilot station and lighthouse built in 1804.

Contemporary Music Touring Fund

Labor will provide \$4.5 million in grants of between \$5,000 and \$50,000 to Australian bands to tour regionally and nationally.

Australian Indigenous Cultural Network – The Australian Indigenous Cultural Network will enable Indigenous Australians to access their cultural heritage materials held by collecting bodies in Australia and overseas, and to consolidate and expand their community collections, by using appropriate multi-media technologies.

Total cost over four years for the project is \$7.2 million.

Labor will commit \$3.8 million over four years to this project.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Labor believes intellectual property will be the currency of the Knowledge Nation in the 21st Century. Labor will therefore move to ensure that creators, the community and the Australian economy all benefit from adequate and continuing protection of our intellectual property.

A recent report by the Allen Consulting Group, *The Economic Contribution of Australia's Copyright Industries*, September 2001, found Australia's copyright industries contributed \$19.2 billion in Industry Gross Product. This represents 3.3 per cent of Australia's Gross Domestic Product and equates to 3.8 per cent of the Australian workforce or 345,000 jobs.

Initiatives: Intellectual Property

Performers' Copyright - Labor will legislate to implement performers' copyright for audio and audio-visual material and to establish the proper legislative base for the appropriate copyright collecting agency to implement these rights.

Extended rights for performers are necessary so they can control their recorded performances and receive equitable remuneration for the use of their performances, particularly via new technologies.

Performing Arts Multimedia Library - Labor will revisit the Performing Arts Multimedia Library project, which set out guidelines for the contracting and copyright management of digital recordings for the performing arts, and assist performing artists and companies in their use of new recording technologies.

Indigenous Moral Rights – Labor will legislate to recognise moral rights for Indigenous custodians which provide the Indigenous cultural group whose tradition is drawn upon to create a copyright work with rights of attribution, protection against false attribution and protection of cultural integrity (as outlined in *Our Culture: Our Future* – Report on Australian Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property Rights 1988).

Resale Royalty - Labor will look to the recommendations of the Inquiry into the Contemporary Visual Arts and Craft Sector to provide a practical basis for the introduction of a Resale Royalty so that artists have an ongoing financial interest in the resale of their work, which will be particularly important to Indigenous artists.

Parallel Importation - Labor is opposed to the Government's ideological push for unrestricted parallel importation of CDs, books, periodicals, software, computer games, sheet music and film products.

The Howard Government's push for unrestricted parallel importation is a direct attack on the creative industries that will be crucial for the future of Australia as a successful nation in the 21st Century.

USE IT OR LOSE IT

Labor's '**Use it or Lose it**' policy for parallel importation would extend the regime Labor put in place for books in 1991 to CDs, software, computer games, sheet music and periodicals.

Costing

| | 01-02 | 02-03 | 03-04 | 04-05 | Total |
|--|------------|-------------|------------|------------|-------------|
| Australia Council (1) | 0 | 20.0 | 0 | 6.5 | 26.5 |
| Film and TV Local Content Regulation | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Contemporary Music Touring Program | 0 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 4.5 |
| Parallel Importation | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| ArtStart | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Visa Requirements for Foreign Bands | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Music Content Rules for Radio | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Regional Museums and Galleries Curatorial | 1.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1.0 |
| CommunityArtbank | 1.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1.0 |
| Tasmanian Centre for Contemporary Music | 0.5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.5 |
| Low Head Pilot Station and Norfolk Museum | 0.5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.5 |
| Riverside Theatres, Parramatta | 1.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1.0 |
| Resale Royalties | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Australian Indigenous Cultural Network (2) | 0.5 | 0.9 | 1.1 | 1.3 | 3.8 |
| Indigenous Moral Rights | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Performers Copyright | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Status of the Artist | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total (millions) | 4.5 | 22.4 | 2.6 | 9.3 | 38.8 |

Film Industry Package

Labor will implement the recently announced Film Industry Package, which includes the following funding over four years:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| Film Corporation | \$39.0m |
| SBS Independent | \$12.7m |
| Film Australia | \$11.2m |
| Australian Film Commission | \$18.3m |
| AFC(Broadband) | \$2.1m |
| AusFilm | \$4.1m |
| Australian Film and Television School | <u>\$4.6m</u> |

Total: \$92.0m

(1) Australia Council: This \$20 million additional funding injection would be available for the Australia Council in 2002-03.

(2) Australian Indigenous Cultural Network: Total cost of the project is \$7.2 million over four years. Labor will commit \$3.8 million over four years to this project. \$3.4 million will be provided over four years by States and Territories and private and philanthropic sources.