

My name is Melinda Tyquin - I live on the NSW Central Coast. I work as an independent performing artist, an emerging producer and projects manager, and in dance education.

I am opposed to Minister Brandis' setting up of the NPEA with funds appropriated from the Australia Council.

The reduction in funds managed by the Australia council will impact greatly on the independent and small-to-medium arts sector, as it will:

- redirect funds that are currently offered to emerging artists, administrators and educators: in turn dismissing professional development opportunities that establish foundation blocks for a thriving arts sector
- diminish the opportunity for arts engagement within community groups (a large portion of the activities undertaken by the independent and small-to-medium sector), making art less accessible to the wider public
- reduce the integrity of arts practice within Australian, as less funding opportunities will pass through Australia Council's peer assessment panels: instead filtering through a system based on ill-informed judgements made by those not employed within the sector

Melinda Tyquin