

Arts SA notes the terms of reference of the Inquiry into Australia's Indigenous visual arts and craft sector and comments:

the current size and scale of Australia's Indigenous visual arts and craft sector:

Arts SA has no data on this

the economic, social and cultural benefits of the sector:

Arts SA recognises the economic, social and cultural benefits of artistic involvement in any community, and particularly in disadvantaged communities. The American study *Champions of Change* provided hard evidence of this, and Arts SA suggests that the Inquiry visits the findings of that study

<http://www.neiu.edu/~daflatle/corchea/champion.html>.

In most communities, such as the APY Lands, art is the only form of economic activity

the overall financial, cultural and artistic sustainability of the sector:

Arts SA has no data on this, but supports this term of reference as a most important part of the enquiry.

the current and likely future priority infrastructure needs of the sector:

improved art centre infrastructure (buildings and materials); business development tools and business training; governance training.

opportunities for strategies and mechanisms that the sector could adopt to improve its practices, capacity and sustainability, including to deal with unscrupulous or unethical conduct:

The Cultural Ministers Council (CMC) is developing an Indigenous Intellectual Property Toolkit, which is expected to be completed in mid 2007. The Toolkit will have three major target groups – artists, consumers and commercial operators.

The Toolkit could help provide a timely response to some of the issues that have prompted Minister Kemp to initiate the Inquiry into the Indigenous Visual Arts and Craft Sector, particularly the issues raised in term of reference (e).

Arts SA suggests that the Inquiry contact the CMC Secretariat for further details regarding the Toolkit

opportunities for existing government support programs for Indigenous visual arts and crafts to be more effectively targeted to improve the sector's capacity and future sustainability:

Arts SA is reviewing its grant programs and can advise the Inquiry of the outcomes of that review when it is completed. Arts SA has also developed a consultation draft of a state wide (SA) Indigenous Arts Development Strategy that will address visual arts and craft development.

future opportunities for further growth of Australia's Indigenous visual arts and craft sector, including through further developing international markets:

At its 22 September 2006 meeting, CMC noted that an evaluation report on the Visual Arts and Craft Strategy (VACS) confirmed the success of the Australian, State and Territory Governments' four-year funding package for the contemporary visual arts and craft sector. The VACS package has included a significant level of support for the Indigenous visual arts and craft sector, especially art and craft centres in remote regions.

As 2006–07 is the final year of the joint four-year commitment, Ministers also noted that funding issues associated with the VACS evaluation report would be considered by each jurisdiction in the context of Budget deliberations.

It is therefore suggested that the Inquiry consult with the Australia Council and the Department of Information Technology, Communications and the Arts to obtain a national perspective on the benefits of VACS funding for the Indigenous visual arts and craft sector to date and to seek comment on opportunities for further developing the sector, including any relevant Indigenous foci for a possible second phase of VACS.