

## ABORIGINAL ARTS STRATEGY



### High level summary of Reference Group meeting 11 May 2017

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**Attendees:** Peter Louca (ASA), Jennifer Layther (ASA), Rodney Harrex (SATC), Marie Falcinella (Ku Arts), Nicole Gollan (CoA), Kyra Herzfeld (CASA), Roma Aloisi (Catholic Ed.), Kerri Reilly (SA Health), Tricia Walton (Carclew), Shouwn Oosting (DPC), Jared Thomas (ASA), Kimberly Clements (ASA).

**Apologies:** Stephen Goldsmith, Klynton Wanganeen (Tandanya), Nici Cumpston (AGSA), Lee Ann Buckskin (AusCo), Nerida Saunders (AAR), Ina Scales (AAR), April Lawrie (DECD), Mandy Brown (CASA), Frank Lampard (AAR), Dearnna Newchurch (community rep/Fringe) Karina Lester (community rep/MLT), Karl Telfer (community rep)

**Absent:** Tim Ritchie (Tandanya)

#### Welcome and Introduction

- Peter Louca welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the purpose of the Strategy.
- Jared Thomas acknowledged that we were meeting on Kurna land and noted the large number of apologies for the meeting.

#### Terms of Reference

- Jared Thomas briefly explained the Terms of Reference document and the role of the reference group in the Strategy development process.

#### Overview of South Australian Aboriginal Arts Sector

- Jared Thomas gave a presentation providing an overview of the sector. It was broken into three parts to allow for discussion.
- The presentation will be made available to invitees as well as a more comprehensive document with useful references to other documents.
- During the presentation reference was made to an initiative of Catholic Education in partnership with Carclew and Roma Aloisi was invited to talk about the program structure and successes.
  - The very successful initiative is being achieved through sector/state level as a prototype to complement and encourage richer engagement at a local school levels. In response we have engaged (at a sector level) in contractual arrangements with approximately a dozen Aboriginal cultural practitioners (over 80% South Australian residents) and two Aboriginal groups/organisations.
  - A commitment to a complementary cultural safety and respect (whole staff) professional learning program is an important feature of the model, ensuring that artists are working within schooling cultures open to development and improvement in cultural proficiency.
  - There is a lack of Aboriginal educators in CESA. This initiative opens pathways for employment, with the employment of one artist a welcome and unplanned outcome.

- The engagements between artists and schools have created authentic partnerships, furthering the reconciliation agenda. The aim has been to build relationships and create rich engagement over a period of time – not just short one-off sessions.
  - There has been great commitment to funding at sector level.
  - The focus is on both primary and secondary students, but secondary is more complex.
  - Catholic Ed. was facing difficulties in meeting needs and interests to engage with Aboriginal artists. This led to the question of how we can better facilitate access to artists and Aboriginal cultural leaders to participate and lead projects such as the Catholic Education program
- It was noted that Country Arts SA had increased funding in the 16-17 financial year to programs which support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and culture. There is a particular focus on creating Welcome to Country films.
  - A question about whether specific data pertaining to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander engagement with the arts can be captured was raised. The total dollar value within the state is very difficult to capture but would be valuable to have. SATC could quantify tourism figures but not consumer purchasing, etc.
  - It was also noted that it is very hard to quantify the value of non-visual art forms. Arts South Australia will continue to look for ways to collect that data. A possible Strategy outcome is a more resolved data capture approach.
  - This may be achievable through the Statistics Working Group as it will likely become more important in the future.
  - The point was raised that it is challenging to find the correct way to describe arts and culture experiences appropriately and to tell stories the right way to potential tourists. The dedicated area on Tourism SAs website could be strengthened and it would be beneficial to know who to consult with on an ongoing basis.
  - Undertaking an audit of what exists was suggested to enable telling the story about what we have.
  - It was also noted that there was a limited suite of Aboriginal arts and cultural offerings in the State.
  - It was mentioned that SA Health faces similar issues despite having worked with organisations such as ActNow and the APY Art Centres – there is not much information about what is out there. No centralised information on which artists could be available for consultation, commissions, etc.
  - SA Health would like to teach more language to staff and show leadership in the area but don't know who to go to for training. It was noted that SA Health is always looking for artists. A register of people and products would be helpful.
  - Arts South Australia can provide leadership on how to engage with artists.
  - It was also noted that it would be useful to have more understanding of the structure and role of the APY Art Centres.
  - Where art is being used to raise money it would be beneficial to have more information regarding ethical issues, and the reach throughout the community that the money has.
  - The question of how to educate consumers was raised. **ACTION: Jared Thomas to link SATC to the Indigenous Art Code information.**
  - There are a very limited range of places to buy from and limited capacity of people in regional and remote areas catering to visitors. More information is needed for visitors about how to visit the Art Centres or possibilities such as digital experiences to bring work out of the APY Lands instead of communities being stretched to cater for visitors.
  - There is limited ability for the APY Art Centres to run retail spaces so a dedicated space could be beneficial and make authentic art more accessible. A conversation about the potential of, as an example, a gallery in Marla as a low impact, enriching tourist experience was noted.
  - It was suggested that the Strategy demonstrate tangible possibilities.
  - Creating spaces that maintain cultural respect is very important. Preservation of language and culture in the APY Lands is of importance.

- There is a noticeable lack of young people and people with disabilities or other health /wellbeing issues involved in the APY Art Centres.
- It needs to be made explicit that art plays a huge role in reconciliation. Art is an enabler for conversation about a range of issues. The need for a balance between economic benefit and culture was also noted.

### **Consultation/Survey**

- A survey is being prepared as part of the consultation plan.
- Can the survey be translated to avoid misinterpretation?
- Is there the opportunity for video responses? PY Media may be able to assist with this.
- It may be possible to utilise youths for assistance with the videos. SAHMRI has recently done something similar which may be worth looking at for ideas.

### **Description of Sector Forums**

- Jared discussed the forum structure and purpose in contributing to the development of the strategy.

### **Meeting Procedures/Dates**

- Jared mentioned that there would be three more reference group meetings planned at this stage for July, September and October. He also informed that reference group members will be sent information about art form forums and it's important to consider which forums they might be able to participate in.

### **Is the Committee Representative of Stakeholders?**

- Suggestions that a representative from DEWNR, Skills and Development and the Office of Industry Advocate (Sue Panagaris) would be beneficial as members of the reference group.

### **Any Other Business**

- The reference group discussed how the information and Strategy outcomes would be fed back to the community. Kerri suggested looking at the IAP2 model which encourages respectful two-way engagement.
- The reference group were asked if they would be able to help with distribution of the survey through their electronic newsletter distribution lists
- The need for a public statement and a media release was noted, particularly in the context of the survey distribution. **ACTION: To prepare and distribute a media release and public statement – Kimberly Clements to consult with Kate Griffith (ASA).**
- There was a concern that the projected timeframes would blow out due to limited availability of key participants.
- There were some questions around what the ongoing development would be at the conclusion of the Strategy project.
- Peter Louca mentioned that a proper metrics framework has been flagged with Tim Mares from DSD. Tim may have availability from July.
- Are there clever ways to leverage other funding opportunities that we are missing?
- A vital part of the induction process used by Catholic Education is to reinforce the skills artists have. Can this be used across other organisations to help artists see themselves as more than hobbyists and to build confidence in their work?

- The possibility of linking to SA Business Connect for artists was suggested, but there would need to be inbuilt cultural awareness and information available to artists about how to identify fair and reasonable offers.
- There was an identified need to target youth as part of the Strategy consultation. It was suggested that Carclew could drive this through their own contact lists and with others from Restless Dance, SA Health, etc.

#### **Next meeting**

- TBA