



New Leadership.



FRESH IDEAS FOR THE ARTS

\$7.6 million for Indigenous arts

Aboriginal Art Centres will gain a new lease of life under a Rudd Labor Government through an additional \$7.6 million over four years for the National Arts and Crafts Industry Support program to support Aboriginal arts centres across Australia.

Aboriginal Art Centres are the backbone of the Indigenous art and craft sector, providing critical support for an industry estimated to be worth around \$300 million each year.

These centres operate as cooperatives and help promote professionalism and ensure an adequate return of proceeds to Indigenous artists and their communities.

The National Arts and Crafts Industry Support (NACIS) program provides direct funding to Aboriginal Art Centres and is designed to assist these organisations build sustainable businesses by:

- Strengthening governance and business management practices.
- Providing opportunities for artists to maintain, develop and extend their professional art practice.
- Providing opportunities for arts workers to develop professional skills and experience.

Funding for the program has declined in real terms under the Howard Government – with funding in 1995-96 of \$4.8 million falling to \$4.4 million in 2005-06. Meanwhile, the number of Aboriginal Art Centres has grown from about 40 in 1992 to approximately 110 in 2007.

The Senate Committee Report *Indigenous Art – Securing the Future* makes clear the need for additional funding under the NACIS program. Federal Labor will introduce three yearly operational funding for Aboriginal Art Centres to improve financial certainty in line with Recommendation 10 of the Committee's report.

The worldwide Indigenous art boom is stimulating strong international interest in Australian creativity. Indigenous art needs the right support to guarantee the sustainability of the industry and cement its status as a significant export earner.

This initiative builds on Labor's comprehensive approach to Indigenous art and craft, which includes:

- Implementing a resale royalty scheme for visual artists, providing additional support for Indigenous artists who have experienced a boom in the Indigenous art market.

- Supporting increased scrutiny by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission and the development of an industry-wide code of conduct to enhance the industry's sustainability and protect artists from unscrupulous conduct.
- Reviewing any deficiencies in business and governance training to enable Aboriginal Art Centres to develop sustainable business models.

A Rudd Labor Government will recognise the critical contribution of the arts – particularly Indigenous arts – to our identity, community and economy.