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## MEDIA RELEASE

### **Ausdance welcomes return of Catalyst funds to the Australia Council**

Ausdance National and the Ausdance network welcome news today that the Arts Minister, Senator Mitch Fifield, has decided to return Catalyst funds to the Australia Council.

The sudden removal of funds from the Australia Council, the loss of transparent peer reviewed decision-making processes and uncertainty about the role of Catalyst have caused enormous disruption and distress across the sector.

Ausdance National President-elect, Associate Professor Gene Moyle, said: 'The Minister's decision to return remaining Catalyst funds to the Australia Council is a very welcome step. The Minister is to be congratulated for acting on the strong messages he has received about the loss of highly-regarded dance companies and organisations, and has moved to address the ongoing concerns of the arts profession.

'We now want to ensure that some funding balance will be returned to the small to medium dance sector in particular, so we welcome the Minister's comment that "This will allow the Australia Council to continue to focus on supporting small to medium arts organisations".

We look forward to working with the Minister and the Australia Council to ensure that this goal is realised.

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