

MEDIA RELEASE: Friday 4 May 2012

ArtsPeak calls for minimal delay in announcing National Cultural Policy

ArtsPeak is disappointed to learn that the National Cultural Policy has been postponed, as reported yesterday in the Fairfax media and confirmed by the Federal Office for the Arts.

ArtsPeak is the confederation of the 32 national peak arts organisations, which aims to promote the value of the arts in Australia and strengthen the capacity of the arts sector.

Julie Dyson and Tamara Winikoff, ArtsPeak Co-conveners, said today, "While we are disappointed to hear of the delay, we wish to reaffirm our support for the development of a well crafted and well resourced National Cultural Policy, and to assure the Government that our aspirations for a stronger and better supported arts industry remain undiminished."

The arts industry has been eagerly awaiting the release of the National Cultural Policy, the first such policy to be proposed since former Prime Minister Paul Keating's 'Creative Nation' was adopted in 1994.

During the Arts Minister's consultation process last year, ArtsPeak strongly supported the development of a National Cultural Policy.

ArtsPeak, through its member organisations, represents thousands of arts and cultural organisations and individual artists. On their behalf and their millions of audience and participant members, we call on the Government to minimise the delay of the National Cultural Policy, and to demonstrate that support for the arts is high on the Government's agenda.

"The cultural sector has fundamental significance in providing value to the creative endeavours, quality of life and expression of identity of the Australian community", said Dyson and Winikoff.

ArtsPeak believes that urgently needed is an articulation of specific strategies within a National Cultural Policy and appropriate resource allocation to further advance the contribution made by the arts to all Australians.

For further comment contact:

Tamara Winikoff, Executive Director National Association for the Visual Arts (NAVA)
0411 162 156

Julie Dyson, National Director, Ausdance
0412 211 513