

# ArtsPeak

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** **So Far So Good**

Responding to the 2012 Budget today, Tamara Winikoff and Julie Dyson, co-convenors of ArtsPeak (the confederation of peak arts Australian arts organisations), enthusiastically welcomed the Government's allocation of \$64 million for various arts and cultural purposes.

"The contribution of \$39 million over four years to the major national collecting institutions towards the digitization of their collections will provide welcome resources to support the new national arts curriculum for schools being developed by the Government", said Dyson.

"It will go some way towards offsetting the cumulative impact being felt from the imposition of the efficiency dividend", added Winikoff.

As an element of the promised and still awaited National Cultural Policy (NCP), both encouraged the Government to consider, a similar form of assistance to be provided to all the small to medium arts organisations struggling to keep pace with technological change.

ArtsPeak has called for an increase of 10% in the Government's grants for small to medium arts organisations rising to 25% in four years.

"The S2Ms take the risks, build the capacity of Australian artists and are the essential infrastructure that brings their work to the public", said Dyson.

Both expressed their appreciation of the value to artists of the tax threshold being raised to \$18,000.

"As generally low income earners, this measure will be of particular value to artists whose average annual income is still less than \$28,000. We look forward to some major measures being offered in the NCP to improve artists' career paths and income earning capacity", said Winikoff.

"We applaud the expanded view taken by this Government about the importance of the arts across all areas of government policy, and are seeing the beginnings of the benefits of this approach," said Dyson.

As part of its proposals for the NCP, ArtsPeak has previously asked the Government to consider allocating 1% of the National Broadband Network (NBN) budget to support the training of cultural content creators, and development and distribution of this content through the NBN.

### **For further comment contact:**

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