

SUMMARY OF THE ALP'S 1983 ELECTION  
COMMITMENTS TO THE ARTS

Labor's Initiatives

- \* Expenditure on the arts (including the Australia Council) will be increased to 1975/76 levels in the first Parliamentary term.
- \* A new scheme to provide development aid to independent Australian publishers will be introduced. The scheme will provide low-interest loans to viable Australian-owned and operated publishers through the Commonwealth Development Bank.
- \* Public Lending Right payments will be indexed.
- \* \$2 admission charge to Australian National Gallery will be abolished.
- \* The ALP will investigate tax anomalies such as the imposition of sales tax on sets and properties used by performing companies, with a view to removing such anomalies.

Administrative Changes

- \* Funding decisions for the Australian Opera and the Australian Ballet will be made by the Australia Council, not the Cabinet. No more single line appropriations. The bias in the present Government's treatment of these two companies has been strongly criticised by the rest of the arts community and has distorted funding patterns.
- \* The Public Lending Right Scheme will be put on a statutory basis.
- \* A new coordinating structure for all federally-funded cultural activities will be developed. Coordination of the activities of the ABC, Channel 0, the Australia Council, the Film and Television School, NIDA, the Australian National Gallery, the Australian War Memorial, the National Library and the Australian Archives will improve and rationalise training and employment and lead to a stronger and more coherent development of Australian culture.

Employment

Employment will be generated by increases in funding, coordination of cultural activities, and the strengthening of Australian content requirements in all federally-funded arts, film, TV and other cultural activities.

Education

Labor will encourage the development of teaching programs in primary and secondary schools to encourage appreciation of, and participation in the performing and creative arts.

Objectives of ALP Arts Policy

All federally-funded cultural activities will be required to :

- \* Strengthen the expression of our Australian national identity
- \* Reflect the diverse ethnic and racial composition of Australian society
- \* Achieve an equitable distribution of programs and resources throughout the entire community
- \* Increase access of all Australians to their own culture
- \* Strengthen community participation and decision making in cultural development.

## Other priorities of ALP Arts policy

- \* To restructure the Boards of the Australia Council to include membership from community groups, trade unions and practising artswokers.
- \* To ensure that national companies perform outside their base city and act as a resource for State and regional companies by exchange and loan of artists and other company resources.
- \* To develop and implement an effective programme for the arts in education and to encourage art forms, including popular art forms, amongst youth.
- \* To greatly expand the area of community arts and to ensure that a significant proportion of funds spent on community arts go to rural and provincial areas.
- \* To support and develop existing national institutions and in particular to direct increases to those areas such as the National Film Archive, National Library and the Archives which have been allowed to run down under Fraser government funding policies.
- \* In addition to its loans scheme for Australian publishers, the ALP will assist Australian authors and publishers by examining other general means of assistance such as reduced postal rates, retention of the book bounty, means of distribution assistance and the operation of the Copyright Act. The ALP will ensure that books are not subject to sales tax.