

6 December, 2018

NIACA Consultation  
c/o Australia Council for the Arts  
PO Box 788  
Strawberry Hills NSW 2012  
Australia

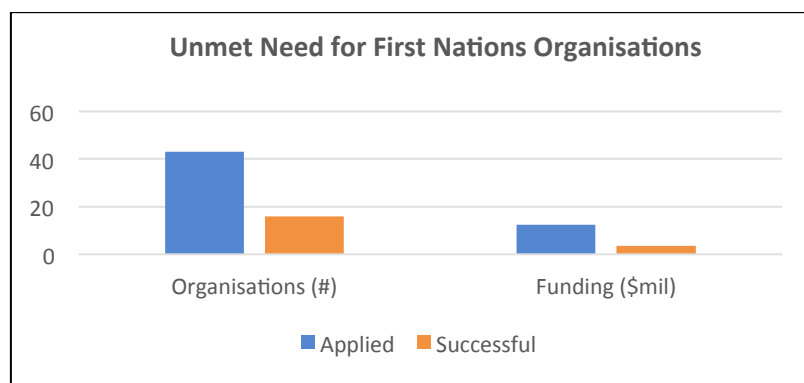
Dear Colleagues,

As a collective representation of Australia's \$2.5 billion performing arts and live performance industry, we welcome the opportunity to make a submission offering our united support for the establishment of a National Indigenous Arts and Cultural Authority.

We believe that an organisation which can protect and promote the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's arts and cultures is urgently needed and we know that the development of such an organisation is supported by the broader performing arts sector across Australia, as represented by our respective memberships.

While we don't offer specific responses to the questions posed in the Discussion Paper, we do note that there is unmet need for support for First Nations artists and arts workers across Australia, as illustrated by the Australia Council for the Arts' own analysis of unmet funding need for First Nations organisations:

*"In 2015, the Australia Council received Expressions of Interest from 43 First Nations-led small to medium arts and culture organisations for multi-year funding that equated to a total request of \$12.5 million per annum. We were only able to support 16 organisations with a total \$3.5 million per annum, declining over 60% of the organisations that applied and leaving unmet demand of over 70% in terms of dollars – the demand far outweighs the funding available."* Australia Council for the Arts, Submission to the Closing the Gap Refresh (April 2018)



Consolidated, targeted investment in First Nations arts, culture and cultural maintenance outcomes would increase opportunities for First Nations people to directly engage in arts and cultural activity, and cultural maintenance and renewal.



We agree with the proposal for NIACA to establish strategic networks and partnerships, and provide a range of services, and we agree that it should bolster the existing First Nations region and art form-based peak bodies, rather than replacing them.

We commend the Australia Council for undertaking this consultation process, and we thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback.

If you have questions or require further information, please contact Merindah Donnelly, Executive Producer, BLAK Dance: E [merindah.donnelly@blakdance.org.au](mailto:merindah.donnelly@blakdance.org.au) P 07 3252 4849 M 0414 804 104

Yours faithfully,

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**ausDANCE.**

