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Media Release

A NATIONAL ARTS AND DISABILITY STRATEGY

Australia's federal and state governments have agreed to work together to improve opportunities and choices in the arts field for people with a disability.

The National Arts and Disability Strategy promotes a more inclusive society, and sets out goals and actions across areas such as access and participation.

These are aimed to address issues that people with a disability encounter as arts practitioners, consumers and audiences.

The strategy acknowledges the efforts already under way in the sector. It plans to build on existing activities, and address areas of weakness.

Four key priority areas are outlined in the strategy: addressing barriers to access and participation; supporting cultural practice amongst those with a disability; developing audiences for disability arts companies and individual artists; and improving policy development and planning within governments.

The strategy sits within the broader National Disability Strategy, a framework within which the Commonwealth and each state and territory can assess existing programs, consider new directions, and identify new ways to support Australians with a disability to lead full lives and engage fully with society.

Each government is responsible for arts and disability initiatives undertaken in its jurisdiction, and the Cultural Ministers Council encourages governments to collaborate on joint initiatives with other governments and the arts and cultural sectors.

The Cultural Ministers Council prepared the strategy with the help of considerable contributions from the arts and disability sector and people with a disability, and thanks those organisations and people.

The National Arts and Disability Strategy is available at www.cmc.gov.au/publications

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