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## Media Release

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### Call for input into a National Arts and Disability Strategy

Australian and New Zealand Cultural Ministers, meeting in Alice Springs, today released a discussion paper calling for community input and submissions on the development of a National Arts and Disability Strategy.

“The development of a National Arts and Disability Strategy is an important way of increasing and improving the involvement and participation of Australians with a disability in arts and cultural activities,” Northern Territory Deputy Chief Minister and current Chair of CMC, Marion Scrymgour said.

The national strategy will look in particular at ways of improving cooperation between governments and, where appropriate, at ways of developing and implementing nationally based initiatives and programs.

This important initiative will feed into the National Disability Strategy and the Social Inclusion Agenda and be coordinated through a CMC Working Group chaired by the Australian Government.

The CMC Working Group would like to hear from a wide range of people with disabilities and mental illness, including people of all ages living in urban, rural and remote areas, as well as organisations and individuals who work or live with people with a disability.

“Public submissions will help to ensure that Australia’s National Arts and Disability Strategy becomes a valuable guide for action,” Federal Arts Minister Peter Garrett said.

“Public submissions will help us ensure that the strategy comprehensively addresses the range of barriers to participation in arts and cultural activity for people with a disability.”

“They can be simply personal stories, ideas and experiences, and could also include examples of best practice and case studies. The discussion paper includes ideas which can be used as a basis for feedback.”

The discussion paper is available for download from the CMC website [www.cmc.gov.au](http://www.cmc.gov.au) and will be open for public submissions until Monday 3 November 2008. Submissions can be emailed to [contact@cmc.gov.au](mailto:contact@cmc.gov.au). Single copies of hand-written or typed submission can be mailed to:

Secretariat, Cultural Ministers Council  
Arts Division  
Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts  
GPO Box 787, CANBERRA ACT 2601

More information: Fiona McLean, CMC Media, 02 6275 9574, 0413 387 911

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