

# Appendix B: Chronology

**Table 5: Chronology of multicultural arts policy at the Australia Council**

| Year    | Multicultural arts policy stage at the Australia Council  |
|---------|---|
| 1967    | Prime Minister Harold Holt establishes the Australian Council for the Arts as part of the Prime Minister's Department with an allocation of AU\$4.6 million (Gardiner-Garden 2009, 1).  |
| 1968    | First meeting of the Australian Council for the Arts. Chair: Dr H. C. Coombs.   |
| 1973    | Prime Minister Gough Whitlam establishes the Australia Council (based on the British and Canadian models) with 24 councillors and seven boards: Aboriginal arts, crafts, film and television, literature, music, theatre and visual arts, with funds of AU\$14 million (Gardiner-Garden 2009, 2). |
| 1974    | An Ethnic Arts Committee is formed and chaired by Evasio Costanzo (Gardiner-Garden 1994, 16).   |
| 1974–75 | The Community Arts Committee distributes AU\$44,682 to 'ethnic projects', 4.5 per cent of the total budget for 1974–75 (Hawkins 1993, 42).  |
| 1975    | The Australia Council Act is legislated as a statutory body. The Ethnic Arts Committee is disbanded (Gardiner-Garden 1994, 16).   |
| 1976    | Australia Council staff support ethnic arts (Blonski 1992, 7).  |
| 1977    | Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser announces a Community Arts Board (Gardiner-Garden 1994, 15).  |
| 1978    | The <i>Galbally Report: A Review of Post-Arrival Programs and Services for Migrants</i> finds the Australia Council 'deficient' and recommends increased connections with 'ethnic communities' to redress budgetary inequalities for 'ethnic arts' (Gardiner-Garden 1994, 16).                    |
| 1980    | A committee meets twice to consider the Arts Council's response to the Galbally Report but does not institute 'programs or policy initiatives' (Blonski 1992, 7).   |
| 1982    | Institute of Multicultural Affairs finds that Galbally's recommendations have not been addressed (Blonski 1992, 6).   |
| 1982    | The Arts Council accepts Galbally's recommendations and employs an ethnic arts officer. AU\$250,000 is dedicated to ethnic arts activity to be matched by the boards (Australia Council 1982, 17–18).   |

| Year    | Multicultural arts policy stage at the Australia Council   |
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| 1985    | Terminology shifts from 'ethnic' arts to 'multicultural' arts, coinciding with the establishment of the Multicultural Advisory Committee. The central Incentive Fund allocation for multicultural arts is reported to be AU\$1,030,000 in 1984–85 (Australia Council 1985, 36).  |
| 1986    | Multicultural arts are defined during this time as the 'practice of artistic traditions (popular, folk or high arts) of immigrants and people descendant [sic] from non-English speaking backgrounds'. AU\$1.3 million, or 3 per cent of Arts Council funding, supports the multicultural arts policy (Jupp quoted in Bennett 2001, 269).  |
| 1988    | A national conference, Arts Policy for a Multicultural Australia, is held in Adelaide, a joint initiative of the Multicultural Artworkers Committee of South Australia, the Community Cultural Development Unit and the Office of Multicultural Affairs (Australia Council 1988, 22–23).   |
| 1990    | The Australia Council Multicultural Advisory Committee (ACMAC) is established by membership of each artform board and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts to develop policy (Australia Council 1991, 12).   |
| 1991–92 | The Arts Council's overall Arts for a Multicultural Australia expenditure is 8.8 per cent (Australia Council 1992, 21).  |
| 1991–92 | The Australia Council and the Office of Multicultural Affairs co-sponsors the National Arts for a Multicultural Australia Working Party composed of all state arts funding authorities and ethnic affairs commissions to develop Arts for a Multicultural Australia policies across Australia. This is endorsed by the Cultural Ministers' Council and the Immigration and Ethnic Affairs Ministers' Council (Australia Council 1992, 22). |
| 1993    | New Arts for a Multicultural Australia policy released. 'It is increasingly acknowledged that Australia derives enormous advantages from its cultural diversity' (Australia Council 1994, 27).   |
| 1999    | The Arts Council releases a draft discussion paper in the lead up to the next Arts for a Multicultural Australia policy. ACMAC notes that 'over the past decade the field, and even the definition and use of the term multiculturalism has broadened to encompass a wide variety of arts practice and content' (Jupp quoted in Bennett 2001, 270).  |
| 2000    | New Arts in a Multicultural Australia (AMA) policy launched. The key characteristics include a five-year strategic vision that is outwardly focused and applies real investments in the field (Australia Council 2001, 21–22).   |
| 2000–05 | More than AU\$2 million in dedicated funds to AMA initiatives is expended (Keating, Bertone and M. Leahy n.d.).  |
| 2002    | Globalisation, Art + Cultural Difference international conference held in Sydney. (Convened by Tsoutas and Papastergiadis, resulting in Papastergiadis ed. 2003. <i>Complex Entanglements: Art, Globalisation + Cultural Difference.</i> )   |
| 2003    | Empires, Ruins and Networks international conference held in Melbourne, resulting in McGuire and Papastergiadis, eds. 2004. <i>Empires, Ruins and Networks: The Transcultural Agenda in Art.</i>   |

| Year    | Multicultural arts policy stage at the Australia Council  |
|---------|---|
| 2004    | A review of the AMA policy is commenced to assess the extent to which its objectives have been achieved, current issues in the field and strategies for 2005 (Australia Council 2004, 17).  |
| 2004    | The Australia Council meets all applicable key performance indicators against <i>The Charter of Public Service in a Culturally Diverse Society</i> (Australia Council 2004, 50).  |
| 2004    | 'AMA 2000 Evaluation' presented to the Arts Council.  |
| 2006    | ACMAC develops AMA 2006. Australia Council ratifies AMA 2006 with AU\$600,000 over three years (Australia Council 2007).  |
| 2007    | Multicultural Arts: Cultural Citizenship for the 21st Century held at Parliament House in November. Senior bureaucrats from each state and territory, academics and artists attend (Australia Council 2007).  |
| 2007    | ACMAC is disbanded in December (Australia Council 2009, 20).  |
| 2008    | The Cultural Engagement Framework is introduced and includes the arts in a multicultural Australia (Australia Council 2009, 20).  |
| 2009–11 | The Australia Council and the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission partner in an AU\$660,000 initiative with Muslim Australians to build cultural participation, skills and mutual respect (Australia Council 2009, 20).                         |
| 2011    | The Australia Council's Corporate Plan contains two 'multicultural' references. 'Diverse', however, occurs many times and with reference to a range of administrative, strategic or artistic pursuits (Australia Council 2011, 39, 42).                   |
| 2014    | Increased participation in the arts in under-represented communities includes regional Australia, disability, young people, cultural diversity, emerging communities, Indigenous people, and remote Indigenous communities (Australia Council 2014a, 24). |
| 2016    | The Corporate Plan aims for a 14 per cent target of culturally and linguistically diverse artists (Australia Council 2016b).  |
| 2017    | Major Performing Arts companies can apply for increased funds to work with artists across all diversity areas (Australia Council n.d.-e).   |
| 2018    | The AMA policies are no longer found on the Australia Council website.  |

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