



The Place To Be

# Media release

From the Premier of Victoria

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Monday, 9 August, 2010

## LABOR BOOST FOR VICTORIAN COLLEGE OF THE ARTS

The Victorian Government today announced \$3 million for the Victorian College of the Arts and welcomed the announcement by Prime Minister Julia Gillard that a new Federal Labor Government would restore VCA funding cut by the Liberal Party in 2005.

Premier John Brumby said today's announcements were a great outcome for the VCA.

"The VCA makes a significant contribution to the education of our state's artists and these announcements provide certainty around the future of the VCA," Mr Brumby said.

"Our Government will provide \$3 million, including \$2 million for the establishment of a Foundation Trust, similar to the NIDA Foundation Trust, and \$1 million for equipment and facility upgrades."

This complements the Federal Labor promise that if re-elected they will provide \$5.1 million from 2012, on the condition that the University of Melbourne will maintain VCA's current funding, including its \$6 million cross-subsidy, beyond 2011.

In addition, the Federal Labor Government has committed to match the Brumby Labor Government's \$2 million for the establishment of a Foundation Trust.

Mr Brumby said today's funding announcements come after weeks of constructive discussions and he praised Federal Candidate for Melbourne Cath Bowtell's championing of this issue, together with the work done by Minister for the Arts Peter Batchelor and Member for Melbourne Bronwyn Pike.

"This is a great day for the VCA, and demonstrates the Commonwealth, State and University commitment to create a bright and sustainable future for the VCA," Mr Brumby said.

Minister for the Arts Peter Batchelor said the \$1 million for the equipment and facility upgrades would include \$480,000 to refit the Southbank film and sound studios and \$520,000 to upgrade the dance studio floor and other small equipment and facility upgrades at VCA.

"The Foundation Trust funding will provide a mechanism for supporters of the VCA to directly contribute to its future success," Mr Batchelor said.

"The Foundation will fund projects and activities that are not provided for by regular government funding or by operational income, and enable the VCA to grow, respond to change and to meet the highest educational standards."

In addition to the funding announced today, Mr Batchelor said the Victorian Government would:

- Continue working with the VCA as part of their Curriculum Review to ascertain whether expanding to offer a new series of VET (TAFE) courses could contribute to future sustainability while providing pathways to degree courses (like the West Australian Academy of Performing Arts);
- Provide leadership around investigating and securing industry partnerships for courses such as music theatre and puppetry; and
- Continue working with the University of Melbourne to further develop VCA facilities as part of the development of Melbourne's world leading Southbank Cultural Precinct.