



Anna Bligh MP

06 SEP 2004

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Legislative Assembly of Queensland
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000



**Queensland
Government**

**Minister for Education and
Minister for the Arts**

Dear Mr Laurie

Neil

I refer to the petition lodged on 17 August 2004 with the Queensland Legislative Assembly requesting adequate operational funding for the Townsville Community Music Centre (TCMC).

There is no doubt that over its 21 year history, TCMC has provided valuable assistance to both professional and amateur musicians in Townsville/Thuringowa and the broader regions of North Queensland. Arts Queensland (AQ) has supported TCMC through the Cultural Infrastructure Program (CIP) with funding since 1995 totalling \$563 129.

The TCMC CIP application did not provide as compelling a case for funding as other similar organisations assessed in a highly competitive funding round where \$34.7m was requested for the period 2004-06 from an available budget over that period of \$23m.

Despite the cessation of funding to the TCMC, CIP funding to Townsville in the 2004-06 period will rise over the previous triennium from \$803 850 in 2003 to \$870 517 in 2004, \$840 000 in 2005 and \$845 000 in 2006. This will include CIP funding to organisations such as Extensions Youth Dance Company for the first time, La Luna Youth Arts, Umbrella Studios Association, Tropic Sun Theatre and Dance North. In terms of providing assistance for contemporary music funds are being made available to The Lab in Townsville to assist them in supporting young and emerging musicians.

TCMC is eligible to apply for Arts Queensland Major Grants project funding (\$5000 and over) and support under the Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF). It will become eligible for AQ Small Grants project funding (under \$5000) from 1 January 2005.

Arts Queensland will assist TCMC in preparing project funding applications if requested, and has secured the assistance of the Department of State Development and Innovation to support TCMC with business and strategic planning and participation in an upcoming Creative Industries meeting in Townsville.

I believe the department can demonstrate a solid commitment to supporting the arts in the Townsville/Thuringow region.

I invite you to contact Ms Grazia Catalano, Executive Director, Programs, Arts Queensland on telephone (07) 3224 5661.

Thank you for providing me with a copy of the petition.

Yours sincerely

Anna Bligh MP
**Minister for Education and
Minister for the Arts**

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