



The Honourable Rod Welford MP



**Queensland
Government**

18 JUN 2007

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

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

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter dated 19 April 2007 regarding the petition received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly No. 742-06.

While it is true, as the petitioner, Mr Ryan Ginard, states that Queensland does not have a dedicated contemporary music program or strategy, the Queensland Government does make a considerable investment in this sector. In 2006 Arts Queensland (AQ) awarded \$582 763 to the sector through the Cultural Infrastructure Program, Project Grants Program and Strategic Initiatives.

This funding supported a wide range of activities, including professional and industry development projects, performances, recordings, music markets, touring and export. Additional funding to this sector is also provided through initiatives of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and the Department of State Development. Contemporary music is also supported through funding provided to the Brisbane Festival and the Queensland Music Festival.

The recently launched Queensland Arts Industry Sector Development Plan includes a commitment to develop a comprehensive Contemporary Music Strategy which will be developed and implemented by AQ to drive Queensland's future investment and resources in this sector. This strategy includes specific actions designed to address some of the issues raised by Mr Ginard.

In developing the strategy, AQ will evaluate the success of dedicated contemporary music programs in other states and make recommendations to the Government on the benefits, or otherwise, of adopting a similar approach in Queensland.

I thank Mr Ginard for his ongoing interest and support for the contemporary music sector, a sector which has a long and successful history within the state's creative industries.

Yours sincerely

Rod Welford MP

Ref: 07/59378

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Level 22 Education House
30 Mary Street Brisbane
PO Box 15033 City East
Queensland 4002 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3237 1000
Facsimile +61 7 3229 5335
Email educationandarts@ministerial.qld.gov.au
Website www.education.qld.gov.au
ABN 65 959 415 158