



The Australian Journal of **INDIGENOUS EDUCATION**

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INDIGENOUS PERFORMERS ON THE RISE

A range of diverse and exciting projects are highlighted in the latest round of grants from the Performing Arts committee of the Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Board of the Australia Council.

The performing arts projects were as diverse in art form as they were in geographical area. Thirty-two were funded, totalling \$418,196, across the mediums of drama, music and dance, criss-crossing the country from Hobart to Broome and from Perth to the Atherton Tablelands.

The **Aboriginal Dance Theatre**, Redfern, had funding approved for the continuation of the successful Saturday and After School Arts & Culture program, which services the needs of Aboriginal youth in the Redfern and metropolitan area.

Funding was also approved for the **"Jagamarra Living Cultural Centre"** to be presented at the 1994 Royal Melbourne Show to an expected 700,000 visitors over a ten day period. The **"Jagamarra Living Cultural Centre"** explores aspects of Aboriginal heritage, enabling children to participate in a re-enactment of a Ceremony twice daily.

NAISDA, Glebe, have been assisted by the Australia Council for the Aboriginal & Islander Dance Theatre 1994 production of 'Sanctum' & 'On The Spot'.

Music projects funded by the Australia Council include - **ABMUSIC**, Perth and **AUSMUSIC**, Melbourne. **ABMUSIC** will organise community performances by Aboriginal music for the elderly, at prisons and detention centres, for sick and disabled children and at the Royal Perth Show, while **AUSMUSIC** will organise a National Indigenous Music Conference, which will take place in Cairns in November. Aboriginal representatives from each state will attend as well as a Torres Strait Islander person.

Applicants for music grants displayed a broad spectrum of styles and exciting range of talent. Classical chamber music, jazz, rock, reggae, folk and country, represented the diversity of Aboriginal music. Five Aboriginal rock bands from across the country received funding - **Ryegel**, Hobart; **Silhouettes Band**, Derby; **Culture Link**, Woorabinda Qld; **David Ardent & Altogether**, Melbourne & **Footprince**, Broome. Music grant applicants showed a strong talent in songwriting, devising original material.

A Music fellowship of \$35,000 was awarded to **Toni Janke** of Sydney to assist in furthering her singer/songwriter career. Toni is a popular performer who has appeared with Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander artists around the country. She was born in North Queensland, grew up in Cairns and spent some time in Canberra. Toni has been singing and playing guitar since the age of eight. She now lives in Sydney and recently released her debut CD titled "Hearts Speak Out".

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