



Thursday 11 September 2003

CULTURAL KIT FOR COUNCILS

A kit to assist Councils plan cultural expenditure of more than \$65 million a year in SA was today launched by the Local Government Association (LGA) and the State Government.

The Minister Assisting the Premier in the Arts, John Hill and LGA Vice-President, Mayor Tony Zappia, jointly launched the kit at the LGA today (11/9/03).

John Hill said the kit is a valuable resource because it highlights 25 good practice examples of Council policies, projects and activities.

“Many Councils are in an excellent position to promote the arts at a grass roots level and this kit will help Councils to understand how important the cultural, economic, social, artistic, employment and environmental outcomes of this work can be,” the Minister said.

Mayor Zappia said recognition of Local Government’s involvement in arts and culture was overdue notwithstanding its lead role in public libraries.

“Libraries are the most used public buildings in the State” Mayor Zappia said,” but Councils are also involved in galleries, museums, public art, cultural development programs and in many other cultural activities which help to build communities.”

The kit was jointly funded by Arts South Australia, the Local Government Research and Development Scheme, Country Arts SA, and the Community Arts Network. It is an initiative of the Creative Communities Network (CCN) – a group of arts and cultural officers working in Councils.

CCN Chairperson Mr Matthew Ives said Councils are doing “fantastic” work with local communities and the kit presents an opportunity to promote this. Using examples of policies and projects in the kit CCN was keen to assist Councils to develop their approaches to arts and cultural activities.

“This kit will provide a resource for Councils and its focus is on how Councils can work more closely with their communities.”

Latest Australian Bureau of Statistics data on SA Councils cultural expenditure suggests it is now around \$67m a year. The project involved an audit of Council involvement in arts and culture, recommendation of a policy which was adopted at the LGA’s 2002 AGM, a guide for developing and maintaining an arts and cultural policy, and the 25 policy and good practice story sheets.

The kit, along with the audit report and LGA policy, can be found on the internet at <http://www.lga.sa.gov.au/goto/artsandculture>.

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