

CAMD Commends Catalyst Fund

The Council of Australasian Museum Directors (CAMD) has commended the recently announced creation by the Minister for the Arts of the *Catalyst – Australian Arts and Culture Fund* which provides incentives and opportunities for arts and cultural organisations to collaborate in new and exciting ways.

CAMD Chair, Professor Suzanne Miller, said that the *Catalyst Fund* 'goes some way towards providing a more equitable balance between the funding provided to arts programs and support for museum programs which are generally outside the Australia Council's remit'.

Professor Miller, the CEO of the Queensland Museum Network, noted that 'many CAMD museums collect, exhibit and create public programs around art collections and artists as well as other cultural areas. *Catalyst* funding will provide much-needed opportunities for Australian and international audiences to access and engage creatively with cultures past and present.

Professor Miller also noted that the fund, which is open to museums across Australia, provided important acknowledgement of the distributed character of collections and the national stature and significance of many collections held in State, Territory and regional museums as well as national cultural collections.

While noting that the method of assessment for applications to the fund has proven controversial, Professor Miller emphasised her confidence in the outcomes of the proposed system. She pointed out that this type of assessment had worked effectively for other funding programs run by the Ministry for the Arts, including the long running and successful *Visions of Australia* touring program.

CAMD brings together the leaders of the major regional, state/territory and national museums and science centres in Australia and New Zealand.

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