


Tabled at EIC mtg
by Jackie Trad MP, 6.55pm
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612ABC 11/10/2012: Ros Bates – Super Star Fund

S - Spencer

B – Bates

S – Well it's more than 6 months now since the state election, which you may recall included that promise of \$3m over 4 years for theatre groups to hire *Superstar Talent*. This morning the Arts Minister Ros Bates launches the next stage of the *Superstar Fund*, minister good morning.

B – Good morning Spencer, how are you?

S – I am well thank you very much, what are you announcing right here right now?

B – What we're announcing is an invitation to all Queenslanders to give their feedback on the new funding program, Arts for All Queenslanders, which is the *Superstar Fund*. Obviously you are well aware that I have had numerous round tables, I think I've had about 6 now, so we've had some very open and frank consultations and these guide lines have been formulated based on that consultation.

So the purpose of that consultation and this announcement today is to test the guidelines on the organisations that we've already spoken to during the development of these guidelines and also to give the opportunity for other organisations to ensure that the guidelines are actually workable and that they're likely to lead to innovation and exciting applications and obviously produce the desired outcome.

S – So this is public consultation starting right now in other words?

B – Absolutely

S – Ok, so what are the basic guidelines? What have you come up with as a result of that roundtable?

B – Well basically the guidelines are based around, obviously the \$3m program. It's a program open to any Queensland based organisation, and the guidelines are to support proposals in all the performing -arts, such as dance, music, theatre and opera and there are some **(inaudible)** criteria and obviously because of that for all Queenslanders, we want to make sure that not only culturally but economically, Queenslanders benefit. The applicants obviously need to be based in Queensland, they need to have satisfied requirements of previous Arts Queensland Funding, they need to be able to demonstrate the ability to secure proposed international artist or artists, at least have an attempt to match the funding sought because as I have said before we're about a 'hand up' not a 'hand out' and have demonstrated the ability to stage large scale, high quality productions.

S – And when's this going to be, when's the public consultation going to be over and you're actually going to start handing out some of the cash, because we are already 6 months into the term of the government?

B – Yes I know, the public consultation's open for the next 2 weeks, so it's until October the 25th and to have a say on how the fund should work you can go to the Arts Queensland website on www.arts.qld.gov.au or you can find Arts Queensland on Facebook or Twitter.

S – Yes and so when are you going to start handing the money out do you think?

B – As soon as the guidelines are finalised after the consultation process. It will probably take us 2 weeks for that and what I have already commenced is a cabinet submission for an arts investment advisory board, and they will oversee the assessment of the applications and make recommendations for funding to me. So that application will be going up to cabinet on Monday.

I know it's been a little while with the consultation but I think it was very important that we got it right. We spoke to the people who would be likely to be applying for the funds and that we give, as I said the artistic and economic benefit back to Queensland artists.

S – So just from what you just said there, does that mean if you were not invited to a round table you're really not expected to put in for the money?

B – Oh no absolutely not, the initial guidelines were focused on the people that came to the round tables and obviously I've met with many many people, the majors as well as the smaller touring funds, you know as well, this is an opportunity for all Queenslanders including people who want to see something that would be funded through a *Superstar Fund*.

S – Ok, wouldn't most arts companies already have their 2013 programs sorted? It's getting a bit late for next year in other words, we'd be talking about spending the money essentially in 2014 rather than 2013?

B – Look, I think that most of the Arts community would welcome further input into having anymore shows, yes they obviously will have had some touring organised for next year but I'm sure that if their application is successful that they will make room for a *Superstar*.

S – Ok, I guess the reason for the question is, it's \$3m over 4 years, where 6 months into this already, into the term of the government, do you see $\frac{3}{4}$ of that money, so \$3m over 4 years, do you see $\frac{3}{4}$ of that money being spent in this term of your government? You're not going to carry over a disproportionate amount of that money into the next election campaign and the next term are you?

B – No, and it's not just a \$3m program, that's not what the *Superstar Fund* is about, now there is going to be a nominal cap of \$300 000 which will be applied to projects so, you know smaller groups can apply for these, so it's not just one big opening of one program. It's designed to get involvement of all organisations across the state so they can apply. I think this is really exciting, this is about developing our own artists, by bring some talent for them to the state to work with as well and it's going to nurture and grow our own local artists, so I think they will get invaluable experience and they will develop from the *Superstar Fund*.

S – From all the superstars in the world, who would you like to see on stage in Brisbane?

B – Oh well, I like Nicole Kidman and I'm a bit partial to Hugh Jackman and obviously Geoffrey Rush would be a fabulous draw card.

S – Ok, you know I thought you actually would have I can't answer that because that's going to sway some of the applications. So you now know don't you, that the QTC and what not are going to be drawing up plans for a Nicole Kidman, Hugh Jackman and Geoffrey Rush play?

B – Not necessarily, but certainly it's a message to those three superstars that we would welcome their input into Queensland arts.

S – Thanks for your time this morning

B – Thanks so much Spencer, bye

S – Arts Minister, Ros Bates opening the 2 week consultation period for the *Superstar Fund*