



Speech By  
**Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk**


**MEMBER FOR INALA**

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Record of Proceedings, 14 September 2016

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Regional Arts Development Fund**

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (2.10 pm): My government is committed to supporting arts and culture in Queensland. Queensland has become an arts hub, with our state playing host to the Brisbane Writers Festival, and the Brisbane Festival is in full swing at the moment. No matter where you live in this great state—from Boigu Island to Coolangatta—my government is one that supports connected and vibrant communities.

In July I had the pleasure of visiting the Torres Strait, one of the most unique and beautiful places in the world. This week the Torres Strait region is buzzing, with their biennial Winds of Zenadth Cultural Festival underway from 13 to 16 September. The region's cultures and traditions on display are more energetic, colourful and vibrant than ever, with the festival bringing the community together. The Winds of Zenadth Cultural Festival is the most significant cultural gathering in the region, with more than 5,000 people celebrating and sharing traditional Torres Strait culture.

My government is providing \$95,000 to support this year's festival, including support through Arts Queensland's Backing Indigenous Arts initiative. I also want to thank the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, the honourable the Treasurer, whose department is also pitching in to help with this festival. I also acknowledge that the Minister for Communities, as the ministerial champion for the Torres Strait, will also be visiting the Torres Strait later this week to attend this very important festival on behalf of the government.

Access to arts is not just for our major cities. I always say that it does not matter where you live; it is your right to have the quality of services that our major capital cities have access to, and the arts is no exception. That is why I can announce today that regional communities throughout Queensland will access up to \$4 million in arts funding for communities throughout our state. This funding has been made possible through the Arts Queensland Regional Arts Development Fund. The RADF is a partnership between the Queensland government and 59 local councils to support arts and cultural activities throughout the state. I am quite sure the Deputy Premier, as the Minister for Local Government, will also be encouraging the councils to get on board for this very important initiative. This partnership promotes the role and value of arts, culture and heritage as key drivers of inclusive communities and strong regions.