



Speech By
Hon. Leanne Enoch

MEMBER FOR ALGESTER

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Women, Arts and Culture

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Treaty, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Minister for Communities and Minister for the Arts) (9.53 am): Queensland's thriving arts and cultural sector plays a pivotal role in shaping our state's unique identity and enriches our communities. Central to the success of this sector are the remarkable women artists, arts workers, executives and board members who contribute their talents and vision and make Queensland the place to be for creating and witnessing great art. This Women's Week we acknowledge the talented women from across the sector and celebrate their important contributions.

Arts funding in Queensland supports women creatives through various funding programs including the Queensland Arts Showcase Program, with women making up over two-thirds of the individuals supported through this fund since 2022. Their projects—ranging from Queensland First Nations and hip-hop showcases at the Australian Women in Music Awards to Georgina Pinn's immersive art installations and Liesel Zink's large-scale contemporary dance project *Us and All Of This*—show the diversity and creativity of female artists in Queensland. Additionally, our government is proud to support the \$15,000 Carol Lloyd Award through QMusic. This award commemorates the late Carol Lloyd's legacy to the Queensland music industry and provides support to an emerging female-identifying or non-binary singer/songwriter. Arts Queensland's Organisations Fund also supports Vulcana Circus with \$70,000 per annum. Vulcana is a feminist circus organisation that provides a creative space for women, trans and non-binary gendered people, diverse communities, and young people of all gender expressions. The First Nations Pathways—Performing Arts Emerging Organisations Fund 2022-25 is supporting First Nations fashion force Grace Lillian Lee with \$130,000 per annum to realise the sustainable development of First Nations representation, access and growth in the fashion and design sectors. These are just a few of the many projects and funds which have supported women and women-led works across Queensland.

As we continue to grow and develop our nation-leading arts and cultural sector, we are also supporting and building the capacity of women in arts leadership positions. We have a strong ensemble of talented women in leadership across the sector, including the appointment of Yarmila Alfonzetti as chief executive of the Queensland Symphony Orchestra; Louise Bezzina as artistic director of Brisbane Festival; Jacqui Feeney as CEO of Screen Queensland; Vicki McDonald as the State Librarian; and Criena Gehrke as executive director of Queensland Theatre, just to name a few. Just a few months ago Leanne Benjamin was appointed artistic director of Queensland Ballet, the company's first female artistic director since its establishment in 1960.

Our arts statutory bodies, including Queensland Theatre, QPAC, QAGoMA, Queensland Museum and the State Library of Queensland, have over 63 per cent female representation on their boards. This includes four First Nations women and three women chairs. Last week I was thrilled to present Suellen Maunder with the Gold Matilda Award, recognising her leadership over 32 years as

co-founder, CEO and artistic director of JUTE Theatre Company in Far North Queensland which has championed regional theatre, including supporting women in theatre. Our ongoing investment in women artists, arts workers and sector leaders has led to fantastic outcomes in the sector. As we celebrate and support women creatives, we will continue to enrich our cultural landscape for generations to come.