

## Question on Notice

No. 483

Asked on 15 April 2008

MR BOMBOLAS asked the Minister for Education and Training and Minister for the Arts (Mr Welford) -

QUESTION:

How is the Government encouraging young Queenslanders to get involved in the arts?

ANSWER:

On 11 April 2008, during National Youth Week, I launched *Art culture'n'me* – an Arts Action Plan for Children and Young People.

Resulting from consultation with almost 700 Queenslanders, the plan describes a three-year program aimed at encouraging young people to get, and stay, involved in the arts throughout their lives.

*Art culture'n'me* features a range of initiatives to improve children and young people's access to creative activities, arts workshops, mentoring, training and funding opportunities, as well as focusing on the development of creative spaces especially for children and young people throughout the state.

The cornerstone of the action plan is *The Edge*, the dedicated \$7.9 million facility to be developed at the Cultural Centre on Brisbane's South Bank. Designed specifically for young people aged 14-25, *The Edge* will be an ideas and technology centre focused on exploring and developing individuals' creativity.

Planning for *The Edge* is well underway with a group of 13 young people (called 'The Edgy Advisors') consulting with designers and architects to make sure the building is tailored to provide the sorts of spaces and facilities young people want and need in order to realise their true creative potential.

Other initiatives announced in the youth arts action plan include:

- *This is serious Mum!* – creative ambition grants of up to \$50,000 for young professional artists to start or grow their own creative businesses;
- *Culture Love* – a workshop program of arts activities in Indigenous communities in regional Queensland; and
- Support for the *2008 Child Friendly Cities Summit* in Brisbane which will promote the value of arts and culture in designing cities that respond to children's needs.

*Art culture'n'me* builds on the Bligh Government's existing support for youth arts and cultural development and the world-class programs for children and young people already on offer at the South Bank Cultural Precinct – such as the ever-crowded *Children's Arts Centre* at the Gallery of Modern Art and the regular sell-out *Out of the Box Festival* for 3 to 8 year olds.