

Question on Notice

No. 249

Asked on 1 April 2014

MR WATTS ASKED THE MINISTER FOR SCIENCE, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, INNOVATION AND THE ARTS (MR WALKER)—

How is the Newman Government delivering for the arts in regional Queensland, particularly in my electorate of Toowoomba North?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Government's vision to grow the arts and culture in Queensland is outlined in the *Arts for all Queenslanders strategy*. This strategy acknowledges the geographic and demographic diversity in communities across Queensland from the Torres Strait to Toowoomba from Boulia to Bundaberg and all communities across Queensland.

Investment and support for the arts in Queensland is delivered primarily through the Arts and Cultural Investment Framework which was released in June 2013.

It covers a range of partnerships, programs and funding categories through which resources are provided for the benefit of all Queenslanders, including those in the Toowoomba North electorate. Some examples of direct support provided in the Toowoomba North electorate in the current financial year are outlined below.

An allocation of \$51,667 was made to Toowoomba Regional Council to deliver the Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF). The Council is contributing a further \$52,500 this year to RADF which is a community grants program providing funding to local artists and community groups to develop and deliver creative projects and programs.

I am pleased to advise that Arts Queensland is currently undertaking an extensive consultation with all local councils on the revitalisation of this program to ensure that local arts and cultural needs and aspirations are met; administrative burden reduced; and opportunities for partnerships enhanced.

I announced on 31 October 2013 the outcomes of the Projects and Programs Fund that provided \$2.3 million to 64 organisations and individuals. Toowoomba North residents will benefit from three projects in their region, funded in this round, to the total value of \$115,499. The funding went to the Empire Theatre Company for a Youth and Community Engagement facilitator; Raygun Projects for their 2014 exhibition program; and Writers Web for their contribution to the *Write Around Queensland* project.

Toowoomba North constituents will be eligible to apply for funding of up to \$60,000 for individuals, organisations or collectives to deliver vibrant arts and cultural experiences to Queenslanders in the next round of funding which closes in August 2014.

Toowoomba North constituents are also able to apply for the Individuals Fund, which provides investment of up to \$10,000 for transformational career opportunities that will turbo charge the career trajectories of our talented artists.

Locals may also be eligible to apply for two key Queensland Government initiatives that each commit \$3 million over four years to drive the arts forward in Queensland. The Super Star Fund invests in Queensland local performing arts companies to engage internationally-renowned artists and the Playing Queensland – Boost to Touring Fund provides increased touring opportunities for arts organisations to take their productions on the road.

In 2014, there will be 15 events funded by the Boost to Touring program in the Toowoomba region. These are *Il Panico di Pantalone* from Blue Roo Theatre Company; *Giselle* from the Queensland Ballet; *R&J* from Expressions Dance Company; an A-Venue regional tour from QMusic; *Animal Farm* from Shake & Stir Theatre Company; *MUSE Festival tour* from Empire Theatres Youth Arts IMPACT Ensemble; *Deborah Conway and band* with Deborah Conway; *Possum Magic* - The Final Farewell Tour from Garry Ginivan Attractions; *Laser Soundbeam Tour* from Dubmarine; LUX Radio Theatre Presents *Gone with the Wind* from Don Mackay; *Nadia and the Blue Flamingo* from Red Chair; *Piano Lessons* from the Queensland Music Festival; Antonio Serrano Harmonious Tour with Nasrine Rahmani; *Project Puccini - La Boheme* from Opera Queensland; and *Cinderella* from the Queensland Ballet.

These great arts and cultural experiences will be available to residents of the Toowoomba North electorate and the surrounding regions.

Screen Culture funding provided through Screen Queensland supported projects to the total value of \$180,000 in 2013-14, including the Travelling Film Festival, founded by David Stratton, which will hit Toowoomba in November 2014.

The Queensland Government, through the Queensland Museum Network, also funds the Cobb and Co Museum where Toowoomba North residents can experience the National Carriage Collection focusing on horse-drawn vehicles and heritage trades. Interactive workshops for all ages are frequently offered.

The Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art (QAGOMA) also regularly visits regional galleries with their comprehensive touring exhibition program and the staging of public programs and educational tours. During 8-12 April 2014, Toowoomba Regional Gallery hosted the 'Kids on Tour' program of creative workshops commissioned to coincide with the *Cai Guo-Qiang: Falling Back to Earth* exhibition.

The State Library of Queensland supports the provision of library services across Queensland through the Public Library Grant. Close to \$19 million is administered State-wide to local councils, with Toowoomba Regional Council allocated \$708,988.80 in 2013-14 year.