



Hon. Ian Walker MP
Minister for Science, Information Technology, Innovation
and the Arts

Ref: AF/2014/654 – ACT14/537

27 MAR 2014

Mr Neil Laurie
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Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 6 March 2014 regarding the petition received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly No. 2205-13 where the principal petitioner, Ms Rachael Dwyer, expressed concern about funding cuts to the Queensland Youth Orchestra (QYO).

The government is committed to supporting young people's engagement in arts and cultural activities. In my recent meeting with executives of the QYO, I acknowledged their important role in Queensland's cultural landscape and encouraged them to apply to other funding programs offered by Arts Queensland.

The funding programs that may be able to support the activities of the QYO include the Projects and Programs Fund, Super Star Fund, Playing Queensland Fund for touring initiatives, and the Innovation Fund, to be launched later this year. The Individuals Fund is also assisting artists and cultural workers (including young performers) to participate in transformational professional and career development opportunities.

The government has demonstrated its commitment to young people in the arts through funding allocated under the Arts and Cultural Investment Framework which includes the funding programs above and the Organisations Fund where almost 50 per cent of the companies successful for 2014-16 funding have a youth focus in their work. In addition, over \$300,000 of the \$2.3 million funding allocated in 2013-14 through the Projects and Programs Fund will support seven projects that will directly engage young people in the arts. This fund will also provide \$135,000 for three contemporary music programs for young and emerging performers.

I thank Ms Dwyer for her interest and support of the QYO and for the future of youth arts in Queensland.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'Ian Walker', with a large loop at the start and a trailing flourish.

Ian Walker MP

Minister for Science, Information Technology, Innovation and the Arts
Member for Mansfield