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Title:
Press statement - Performing Arts Grants

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PRESS STATEMENT: 31/3/71.

FROM: THE PREMIER (MR. DUNSTAN)

SUBJECT: PERFORMING ARTS GRANTS.

Details of a new policy for assistance to the performing arts in South Australia were announced today by the Premier (Mr. Dunstan). He said that in future the Government will assist only professional or semi-professional bodies apart from groups already receiving Government support.

Mr. Dunstan said that Government grants will from now on be divided into three distinct areas:

- . Adelaide Festival of Arts, which will receive assistance over a two year period.
- . State companies and organisations, on an annual subsidy basis for continuing development.
- . Special projects - specific requests from time to time.

Amateur performing arts bodies seeking special assistance should apply to the Australian Council for the Arts and the Council will consider their submissions.

The Premier also announced grants of \$176,300 for the performing arts in the State for the 1970-71 financial year.

This includes \$40,000 already paid to the Adelaide Festival of Arts.

Last year's grants totalled some \$154,000 which included a special additional grant of \$5,000 to the Eisteddfod and an extra Festival Grant of some \$10,000.

"In past years there has been a lack of support for professional drama, dance and children's theatre in South Australia.

"In fact, the only fully professional company given assistance in the last few years has been the South Australian Theatre Company, and this has been provided indirectly through the Australian Elizabethan Theatre Trust.

"As the Government's policy is to form the South Australian Theatre Company into a statutory body, it has decided for the first time to give it a direct grant of \$10,000.

"This grant, together with support from the Trust and the Australian Council for the Arts, will enable the company to employ more actors and staff and to mount a greater variety of productions."

Mr. Dunstan said that other new grants were made to Theatre '62 (\$2,500), the Australian Dance Theatre (\$2,500), the Adelaide International Film Festival (\$5,000), the Australian Society of Music Education which is to hold its Second National Assembly and Conference in Adelaide this year (\$700), and a grant of \$ 2,500 had been set aside for the development of Carclew as a performing arts centre for young people.

"Existing grant to the Arts Council of Australia (S.A. Division) has also been increased from \$5,000 to \$19,000 to enable that important organisation to continue its excellent work throughout the State."

"The Government's grants to the South Australian Symphony Orchestra, the Elizabethan Theatre Trust, the Adelaide Repertory Theatre, the S.A. Bands Association, and the Nuriootpa School Band Competition, the Eisteddfod, and the Highland Games, remain at the 1969-70 level or in previously standard forms.

"The Government believes that the Arts Council of Australia (S.A. Division) clearly merits a considerable increase in its subsidy.

"Its activities have expanded rapidly since 1965 and the Council now has 22 branches in the country areas of South Aust.

"Increased activity and administration means that the Council's costs have far exceeded existing State support, which is so vital to its very existence.

Mr. Dunstan said that in keeping with the Government's policy to assist and encourage those companies which had reached professional or near professional standards, assistance had been given to the Australian Dance Theatre and Theatre '62.

The Film Festival had made a major contribution to the cultural life of the State and so they had received a grant of \$5,000 for administrative purposes.

"The Government hopes to stimulate development of the performing arts in South Australia by assisting local activity in periods between Festivals and we expect that these new grants will be a great help to local companies.

"The Government will continue to work in close liaison with the Council for the Arts in this regard, and the Council's activities are of continuing importance to this State."

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