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PRESS RELEASE FROM THE PREMIER, MR DUNSTAN

ARTS GRANTS

25.2.74

State Government grants for the performing arts are to be nearly doubled this year, the Premier (Mr Dunstan) announced today.

He also announced the creation of an expert body to advise the Government on deciding where future grants go.

The Arts Grants Advisory Committee will be headed by Mr Maurice O'Brien, a senior officer with the Education Department. Deputy Chairman is Mrs R. Wighton, lecturer in Childrens Literature at the Salisbury College of Advanced Education and an editor of Australian Book Review. Other members are: Mrs N. Dutton of Bagot Well; Mrs J. Blewett, tutor in History at the University of Adelaide; Mrs P. Medlin of Myrtle Bank, Mr B. Claridge, lecturer in Architecture at the University of Adelaide; Mr D. Munro, senior lecturer in Singing at the University of Adelaide, and Mr James Main, Reader in History at Flinders University.

Mr Dunstan said the committee would play an important part in developing the performing arts in South Australia.

In making grants, members would be at pains not to interfere with artistic integrity or freedom.

They would also ensure that the grants served the whole State and give proper consideration to country areas.

The main criterion for the award of arts grants would be that the recipients were likely to enrich the cultural life of the State and the nation. Financial success would not be a condition of government support.

The committee would be considering grants to individuals or for specially commissioned works.

The Premier also announced allocation of arts grants for 1973/74, totalling \$789,900, almost twice as much as the 1972/73 total of \$484,475.

The main recipients were the South Australian Theatre Company (\$293,000), the Adelaide Festival of Arts (\$100,000), the Arts Council of Australia, South Australian Division (\$81,660) and the South Australian Symphony Orchestra (\$65,000).

The Australian Dance Theatre and Theatre 62 each received grants of \$40,000.

Other recipients included:

Adelaide Eisteddford	\$9,000
Adelaide Highland Games	3,000
Adelaide Int. Film Festival	15,000
Adelaide Repertory Theatre	2,000
Aust. Elizabethan Theatre Trust	50,000
National Training Inst. Scholarships - (N.I.D.A. & Aust. Ballet School)	2,400
Nuriootpa School Band Comp.	1,500
S.A. Band Association	7,350
New Opera S.A.	50,000