MINISTERS’ FOREWORD

*Creative Connections* has been the key vehicle for the implementation of the State Government’s arts in education policy since 2005.

This partnership between the Department of Culture and the Arts and the Department of Education is unique in Australia and is borne out of a commitment to see the arts as an integral component in a child’s education. Encouragingly, the *Arts and Culture in Western Australia 2009 Snapshot* demonstrates that 94% of the Western Australian community believe that it is important for school children to have access to the arts as part of their education.

Arts and Education Ministers from across Australia have worked together to develop the *National Education and the Arts Statement*, which was released in 2007. This draws on a body of research linking school based arts participation to increased learners’ confidence and motivation; leading in turn to improved school attendance rates, academic outcomes, life skills and wellbeing. The Statement aims to foster creativity and innovation in Australia’s schools and sets out a path to achieve this shared vision.

The inclusion of arts in the new Australian Curriculum has been another important accomplishment for arts in education. Through *Creative Connections* we will be able to offer our artists and schools international best practice to support their delivery of the new curriculum.

*Creative Connections* acknowledges the importance of professional and community based arts and cultural organisations, Teacher Development Centres, professional education associations, tertiary education institutions, the Curriculum Council of Western Australia and other government agencies.

*Creative Connections* has had significant impact over the past five years. We are proud to continue this successful partnership and share a strong belief that it will deliver high quality, tangible benefits to students, artists, arts educators and the community for many years to come.

*HON J DAY MLA*  
Minister for Culture and the Arts

*HON E CONSTABLE MLA*  
Minister for Education
“the arts have a vital role to play in contributing to the development of a culture of innovation in schools and other educational settings; …our future prosperity demands a well informed and active citizenry, consisting of individuals able to communicate well, think originally and critically, adapt to change, work cooperatively, connect with both people and ideas, and find solutions to problems as they occur. Recent Australia Council research demonstrates that school based arts participation contributes to developing these very abilities in students. Good quality arts education partnerships improve student attitudes to learning and contribute to better quality teaching and school leadership.”

In 2002 the Department of Culture and the Arts and the then Department of Education and Training agreed to develop an arts in education partnership framework for Western Australia. *Creative Connections: 2005-2007* was jointly released in January 2005.

An audit and review of the framework commenced in 2008 by the Department of Culture and the Arts in consultation with the arts and education sectors. This work, together with changes in national education policy, has informed the development of *Creative Connections 2010-2014*. Of particular guidance has been the delivery of the 2007 *National Education and the Arts Statement* jointly authorised and published by the Cultural Ministers’ Council and the Ministerial Council for Education, Early Childhood Development and Youth Affairs (MCEECDYA) and the release in 2010 of the Department of Culture and the Arts *Creating Value: An Arts and Culture Sector Policy Framework 2010-2014*.

*Creative Connections* reflects the best in national and State policy development and provides the framework to deliver the best value for the public. *Creative Connections* will build on the expertise, understanding and operational capacity of both Departments in stimulating an education system that nurtures increased creativity, imagination, skills and knowledge.
**SCOPE**

*Creative Connections* offers opportunities for teaching and learning from kindergarten to year 12, including vocational education and training undertaken in schools. It aims to have direct effect on the Arts (i.e. dance, design, drama, media, music and visual arts) and English (including creative writing) learning areas of the Curriculum. It also aims to demonstrate the contribution arts and culture can make to the remaining six learning areas (Health and Physical Education, Languages, Mathematics, Science, Society and Environment and Technology and Enterprise).

Titled an ‘arts in education framework’, it is intended that *Creative Connections* be implemented within the broader context of arts and culture. In this document, the term ‘arts and culture’ is used to describe the Department of Culture and the Arts’ sphere of influence, which includes the art forms of dance, theatre, music, visual arts, writing (literature) and practices that involve a combination of these; film and television. *Creative Connections* also includes the activities of the State’s major cultural institutions – the Art Gallery of Western Australia, the Western Australian Museum, the State Library of Western Australia, the State Records Office, Perth Theatre Trust, ScreenWest and The Bell Tower. These institutions make significant contributions to the cultural development of the State, often utilising artistic forms and artists to achieve their educational objectives.

*Creative Connections* takes a dual approach to the concept of ‘arts education’, as described by Anne Bamford (2006):

- **Education in art** – teaching the practice and principles of the various arts disciplines, stimulating critical awareness, and developing the capacity for aesthetic judgement; and,

- **Education through art** – this includes the arts as a vehicle for learning other subject content, or for developing particular skills such as communication skills, social skills, team working and the ability to cope effectively with change.

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The State Government recognises the importance of the arts in developing the unique intellectual and personal capacities of all children and young people, offering them unique and transforming arts and cultural experiences throughout their schooling.

In establishing a strong foundation for the implementation and delivery of high quality arts in education experiences for Western Australian children and young people, Creative Connections is premised on the following three principles, as outlined in the National Education and the Arts Statement (2007):

**PRINCIPLES**

- All children and young people should have a high quality arts education in every phase of learning.
- Creating partnerships strengthens community identity and local cultures.
- Connecting schools with the arts and cultural sector enriches learning outcomes.

Unique and transforming arts and cultural experiences in education are those that achieve one or more of the following:

- provide a balance between different disciplines of the arts;
- provide a balance within the teaching of arts disciplines between traditional (heritage) and innovation;
- provide a balance between different cultural values and traditions;
- encourage and inspire an appropriate attitude towards imaginative activity;
- encourage young people to believe in their own creative potential and discover their own creative strengths;
- make connections with the arts and cultural community;
- make connections with everyday life; and
- make connections between arts and culture and other subjects and areas of knowledge.
OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

Creative Connections is aligned to the four key areas of collaborative action identified in the National Education and the Arts Statement (2007):

- professional development;
- curriculum, policy and learning resources;
- research and communication; and
- partnerships.

Action Plans will be developed for each year of the term of Creative Connections. These plans will guide implementation while also enabling flexibility to respond to changes in the arts and/or education environment. The Action Plans will be embedded into the operational and reporting plans of both the Department of Culture and the Arts and the Department of Education.
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

*To develop the capacity of the arts and culture and education sectors through professional development opportunities.*

**STRATEGIES**

1.1 Conduct activities which respond to the needs of the arts and education sectors.

1.2 Target educators and pre-service teachers to support the delivery of The Arts through the National Curriculum.

1.3 Enhance the skills and knowledge of artists working in education through access to education specialists.
CURRICULUM, POLICY AND LEARNING RESOURCES

To support the provision of a diverse range of unique and transforming arts and cultural experiences through the Curriculum.

STRATEGIES

2.1 Identify existing high quality and effective arts and cultural service provision to schools and examine opportunities to extend, or enhance these activities.

2.2 Continue to develop and disseminate curriculum guidelines and learning resources for educators and the arts and cultural sector to enable successful learning outcomes to be achieved.

2.3 Contribute to the development of State and Australian Government arts and education policies.

2.4 Contribute to the consultation on the development of the National Curriculum.
OBJECTIVE

RESEARCH AND COMMUNICATION

To articulate and promote the status of the arts in education and the contribution the arts can make to the lives of all Western Australians.

STRATEGIES

3.1 Continue to conduct relevant research which contributes to the development of a body of evidence on the importance of arts in education.

3.2 Promote the importance of arts in education across government and the broader Western Australian community and thereby assist in the development of both sectors.

3.3 Promote Creative Connections, its strategies and the partnership between the Departments at key conferences and events.

3.4 Investigate opportunities for the arts and cultural sector to ‘Close the Gap’ by supporting Indigenous education goals.

3.5 Promote sector-hosted professional development opportunities.

3.6 Establish mechanisms for ongoing and critical review of Creative Connections.

3.7 Investigate the feasibility of centralised models for arts and cultural education service provision for schools.

3.8 Contribute to a culture of creativity and innovation in schools through fostering and showcasing effective arts and cultural programs.

ABOVE | IF I WAS BOSS OF THE WORLD, STRONG AND SMART, BROOME PRIMARY SCHOOL, PHOTO BY LEON MEAD
PARTNERSHIPS

To strengthen the partnerships across the arts and cultural sector and education sector.

STRATEGIES

4.1 Maintain a high quality and relevant partnership between the Department of Culture and the Arts and the Department of Education, including the delivery of the ArtsEdge program.

4.2 Facilitate partnerships between the education, arts and cultural sectors to enrich learning in and through the arts.

4.3 Grow relationships with the Department of Culture and the Arts portfolio organisations.

4.4 Develop relationships with the Department of Culture and the Arts’ funded organisations in the Perth Cultural Centre.
ArtsEdge:
A strategic partnership between the Department of Culture and the Arts and the Department of Education, ArtsEdge is a key delivery mechanism of Creative Connections.

Australian / National Curriculum:
The national curriculum being developed by the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (in Western Australia it is referred to as the National Curriculum).

Close the Gap:
The Federal Government’s Closing the Gap strategy aims to reduce Indigenous disadvantage with respect to life expectancy, child mortality, access to early childhood education, educational achievement and employment outcomes.

Perth Cultural Centre:
Located between the CBD and Northbridge, is one of Perth’s key public spaces, housing the State’s most significant cultural and learning institutions, including the Art Gallery of Western Australia, Western Australian Museum, State Library of Western Australia, State Records Office, Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts (PICA), State Theatre Centre of Western Australia and Central Institute of Technology. The Perth Cultural Centre is under the jurisdiction of the East Perth Redevelopment Authority.

Cultural Ministers’ Council:
The Cultural Ministers’ Council is an intergovernmental forum for ministers responsible for culture and the arts in Australia and New Zealand and for invited observers from the Australian Local Government Association, Norfolk Island and Papua New Guinea.

The council promotes cultural and artistic expression to enhance national civic, social, political and economic development. It does this by co-operating, co-ordinating and collaborating on policies and initiatives of national significance relating to culture and the arts in Australia.

MCEECDYA:
The Ministerial Council for Education, Early Childhood Development and Youth Affairs (MCEECDYA) was established on 1 July 2009 following agreement of the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) to a realignment of the roles and responsibilities of two previously existing councils—the Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs (MCEETYA) and the Ministerial Council for Vocational and Technical Education (MCVTE).

Portfolio Organisations:
The collective term given to the Art Gallery of Western Australia, Western Australian Museum, State Library of Western Australia, Perth Theatre Trust and ScreenWest.
RESOURCES

Practical information about arts and education can be found on the ArtsEdge website at www.artsedge.dca.wa.gov.au or by contacting the ArtsEdge Coordinator or Senior Policy Officer, Arts and Education, Department of Culture and the Arts.

Creating Value: An Arts and Culture Sector Policy Framework, 2010-2014, Department of Culture and the Arts

Available electronically at www.dca.wa.gov.au or in hard copy by contacting the Department of Culture and the Arts.

Artists in Schools: The ArtsEdge guide for artists and teachers in Western Australia (Second Edition: reprint 2009)

Available electronically at www.artsedge.dca.wa.gov.au or in hard copy by contacting the ArtsEdge Coordinator, Department of Culture and the Arts.

Telling Tales: Western Australian Artists-in-Schools Partnerships (2007) Department of Culture and the Arts

Available electronically at www.artsedge.dca.wa.gov.au

