

## Response to question on notice

### Questions on Notice Paper No 9 05 September 2025 Question No. 542

**Thomas Emerson MLA:** To ask the Minister for Business, Arts and Creative Industries

1. Why does the Cultural Facilities Corporation not have a policy requiring First Nations representation on its board, given every other major arts organisation in Australia understands the importance of having First Nations voices on their boards.
2. Does the Cultural Facilities Corporation have an up-to-date Reconciliation Action Plan? If not, why not.

**MICHAEL PETERSSON MLA** - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The Cultural Facilities Corporation is an independent body with a governing board.

1. Appointments to the Cultural Facilities Corporation (CFC) are determined by its enabling legislation *Cultural Facilities Corporation Act 1997* (CFC Act) and the *Financial Management Act 1996* (FMA Act). Section 10 of the CFC Act states that CFC is governed by a seven-member board, of which six members are appointed by the Minister, with the Chief Executive Officer being an ex-officio member. Section 78 of the FMA Act prescribes the requirements for appointment of governing board members namely the contribution the person can make to the goals and objectives of the governing board

Appointments to the CFC Board comply with *Governance Principles Appointments, Boards and Committees in the ACT* policy which outlines a presumption towards refreshing stand-alone appointments and the membership of boards and committees on a regular basis. It indicates that all appointments will be made following a full selection process.

The position description outlines the skills and competencies that is collectively required of the CFC Board which include: governance; accounting and finance; legal; risk management; arts cultural and creative leadership; business and commercial management; fundraising and philanthropy; and cultural infrastructure. The position description specifically encourages applications from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, people with disability, culturally diverse people and those who identify as LGBTIQ+.

The positions are advertised through the ACT Diversity Register, with recent appointments also supported by an external recruitment agency who sought broad and diverse responses to the position description.

2. The CFC has historically operated broadly in accordance with the Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) of its associated directorate, CMTEED, but in light of the CFC's Strategic Plan 23-27 which has specific goals around commitment to respectful, authentic engagement with First Nations arts, cultures, and history, the CFC intends to commence the development of its own RAP in the next 12 months.

The CFC is deeply committed to embedding First Nations perspectives across its programming, operations, and engagement. This commitment is reflected in its support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists, cultural storytelling, and community collaboration including through the following activities in 2024-25:

- Presented major performing arts works at Canberra Theatre Centre (CTC) by First Nations artists, including *Bangarra Dance Theatre's Horizon* and *Waru, Marrugeku's Jurrungu Ngan-Ga*, and *Saltbush*.
- Reconciliation Week programming through the ACT UP! Schools Festival featuring First Nations playwright Dylan van den Berg.
- Established the inaugural First Nations Artist in Residence program at CTC, supporting local artist Emma Laverty and Project Dust.
- Embedded First Nations principles in the CTC's redevelopment vision, guided by Yerrabingin's Designing with Country approach.
- Galleries, Museums and Heritage (GMH) featured First Nations artworks in permanent exhibitions and the Nolan50 program.
- GMH delivered 13 First Nations-led public programs, including cultural weaving and sky stories.
- Hosted a CareerTrackers intern to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander university students.
- Partnered with ANU and Canberra Glassworks to support artist Maree Clarke's research and exhibition.
- Included interpretive content on Muruwari man William 'Deucem' Smith at Lanyon Homestead.

**Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.**



**Michael Petterson MLA**  
**Minister for Business, Arts and Creative Industries**

**Date: 23.9.25**

This response required 2hrs 58mins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$427.04.