



MEDIA RELEASE

The Hon Peter Garrett MP

Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts

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Review of the Australia Business Arts Foundation

Federal Arts Minister Peter Garrett today announced the appointment of consultants McGrathNicol to undertake a review of the Australia Business Arts Foundation (AbaF).

“The Australian Government recognises the opportunities that increased private investment can bring to the arts,” Mr Garrett said.

“This review is a critical component of the Government’s election commitment to investigate ways to increase corporate support for artistic practice.”

The Australia Business Arts Foundation is an Australian Government company that was established in 2000 to promote private sector engagement with, and support for, the arts. It encourages support for the arts through its ‘partnering’, ‘volunteering’ and ‘giving’ programs and services.

“The review will examine how the Australia Business Arts Foundation is performing and consider how best to maximise the effectiveness of Australian Government investment in promoting further private sector support for the arts. A potential merger with the Australia Council will be considered as part of this examination.

“The findings of the review will be taken into account within the context of the Government’s arts policy framework to support a vibrant and diverse Australian arts sector.”

To ensure a wide representation of views, the review will include consultations with key stakeholders including business leaders and arts organisations.

Mr Terry Campbell AO, the Australia Business Arts Foundation’s Chairman, welcomed the announcement. “We look forward to contributing to the Australian Government’s review of the Australia Business Arts Foundation which we welcome as an opportunity to ensure we have the best model moving forward to benefit Australian artists and arts organisations,” he said.

The review will be completed by mid-year and a report provided to the Minister.