



MEDIA RELEASE

The Hon Peter Garrett MP

Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts

PG/52

11 April 2008

NEW APPOINTMENTS TO THE AUSTRALIA COUNCIL

Minister for the Arts, Peter Garrett, today announced two new appointments to the Australia Council – Ms Rosalba Clemente has been appointed as Chair of the Theatre Board and Professor Brad Haseman as Community Interest Representative on the Australia Council.

The Minister also announced the re-appointment of Dr Chris Sarra as Chair of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Board.

“I am pleased to announce the appointment of Rosalba Clemente as Chair of the Theatre Board and Professor Brad Haseman as Community Interest Representative. Ms Clemente has a wealth of experience in the arts and will provide strong leadership for the Australia Council’s Theatre Board. Professor Haseman is internationally recognised for his work in drama and arts education and will bring valuable expertise in arts practice issues in the broader community,” Mr Garrett said.

Ms Clemente is currently a lecturer and tutor at Flinders University Drama Centre and has extensive experience as an actor, director and playwright. She has a distinguished career in the arts and held the prestigious role of Artistic Director of the State Theatre Company of South Australia from 1999 to 2004. She has won many awards and fellowships as a playwright, director and actor.

Professor Haseman is a published academic writer known internationally for his work in drama education, arts in education, applied theatre and process drama. He is currently Professor and Assistant Dean (Research) at the Creative Industries Faculty at the Queensland University of Technology.

“I am also very pleased to announce the re-appointment of Dr Chris Sarra to the Australia Council’s Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Board. I know that his continued contribution to the board is greatly welcomed,” the Minister said.

Dr Sarra is currently the Director of the Institute for Leadership in Indigenous Education and Development in Queensland. In 2004 he was named ‘Queenslander of the Year’ and is a NAIDOC and Deadly Award Winner and an Australian of the Year finalist in 2005 for services to Indigenous education. He is an eminent scholar and his academic research interests include Aboriginal identity within contemporary society.

“I wish Ms Clemente, Professor Haseman and Dr Sarra every success in their roles and look forward to working with them in supporting the arts across Australia,” Mr Garrett said.

Ms Clemente and Professor Haseman have each been appointed to three year terms and Dr Sarra’s reappointment is for a one year term.

The Australia Council is the Australian Government’s principal arts funding body and provides significant support for the arts through a wide range of programs.