



MEDIA RELEASE

The Hon Peter Garrett MP

Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts

PG /58

22 April 2008

Appointments to Australia Council boards

The Minister for the Arts, Peter Garrett, today announced appointments to five boards of the Australia Council.

The Australia Council has seven boards that administer the Council's funding to Australia's art industry, and provide advice to the Council on the development of arts policy and grant programs.

"I welcome the skills and experience these five highly experienced arts professionals bring to the important work of the Australia Council," Mr Garrett said.

Ms Elizabeth Walsh is appointed to the Dance Board. Ms Walsh has been artistic director of Ten Days on the Island, Tasmania's premier statewide cultural event, since 2004. She is a former program manager of the Sydney Opera House Trust and Sydney Festival program manager, and former tour manager for the Flying Fruit Fly Circus.

Ms Mary-Ellen King is appointed to the Major Performing Arts Board. Ms King has a strong background in both business and the arts. She was the general manager of the Melbourne International Festival of the Arts for over five years and worked in various executive roles for the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra. Ms King also has board experience for the Melbourne International Comedy Festival and Orchestra Victoria.

Mr Matthew Lutton is appointed to the Theatre Board. Mr Lutton, a graduate of the West Australian Academy of Performing Arts, has worked as a director for a range of theatre companies from small to medium sized, and was artistic director of the Black Swan Theatre Company's Be Active BSX Theatre program from 2003 to 2006. He is a member of the West Australian Arts Development Panel and the Helpmann Awards Panel.

Ms Lyndal Jones is appointed to the Visual Arts Board. Ms Jones is a practising visual artist and associate professor of multimedia at RMIT University in Melbourne. She represented Australia at the Biennale of Venice in 2001 and was artist-in-residence for the City of Melbourne in 2001-02.

Ms Fay Zwicky is appointed to the Literature Board. Ms Zwicky is a multi award winning poet and former poetry editor for *The Australian*. She lectured in English at universities in Australia (University of Western Australia and University of Melbourne) and was a visiting professor at the University of Central Florida in 1987. She won the NSW Premier's Award in 1982 for *Kaddish and Other Poems* and the WA Premier's Award for Poetry in 1997 for *The Gatekeeper's Wife*.

The Australia Council for the Arts is the Australian Government's arts funding and advisory body. It enriches the lives of Australians and their communities by supporting the creation and enjoyment of the arts.

See www.australiacouncil.gov.au for further information.