



MEDIA RELEASE

The Hon Peter Garrett MP

Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts

PG /71

21 May 2008

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS PICASSO EXHIBITION

The Rudd Government is pleased to be supporting the upcoming *Picasso & His Collection* exhibition, through the Art Indemnity Australia program, Minister for the Arts, Peter Garrett, said today.

“This is an exciting exhibition which will give insights into the influences and expression of one of the great artists of the 20th century.

“The exhibition draws on the French Musée Picasso and Centre Pompidou collections, and includes works by Picasso and as well as by other artists from Picasso’s own collection, all of which will go on display at the Gallery of Modern Art in Brisbane in June.”

Mr Garrett said through the Government’s Art Indemnity Australia program the financial risk of loss or damage to the artworks would be carried by the Government, in a co-indemnification arrangement with the Queensland Government.

“The support provided by Art Indemnity Australia to major exhibitions such as this one allows galleries to make these works widely accessible to Australians. Without it, commercial insurance for major exhibitions would be prohibitively expensive.

“I congratulate Art Exhibitions Australia for developing this important Picasso exhibition and the Gallery of Modern Art at the Queensland Art Gallery for hosting it.

“I also thank our French colleagues for their generous loan to the Australian public.”

Picasso & His Collection will be on display from 9 June to 14 September 2008. Visit the Queensland Art Gallery website www.qag.qld.gov.au for further information about the exhibition.

For further information on Art Indemnity Australia, visit www.arts.gov.au/collections/art_indemnity_australia.