Minister for Local Government; Heritage; Citizenship and Multicultural Interests

Our Ref: 38-10731

MINISTER FOR CULTURE AND THE ARTS

MULTICULTURAL ARTS OFFICER AT KULCHA MULTICULTURAL ARTS OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

I write to you in relation to continued funding for a Multicultural Arts Officer (MAO) position within the KULCHA Multicultural Arts of Western Australia.

Since its incorporation in 1983, KULCHA has been dedicated to presenting, promoting and developing culturally diverse art and artists. The role of the MAO is to support and develop multicultural artists and culturally and linguistically diverse (CaLD) community groups across the State.

Between 2009 and 2011, KULCHA received $40,000 per annum from the Department of Culture and the Arts (DCA) to provide a 0.7 FTE MAO position. This funding ends on 31 December 2011 and KULCHA is seeking $100,000 per annum for 2012-14 to fund the role, inclusive of program costs.

In September 2009, we issued a joint media statement on the Western Australia Intercultural Arts Research Project: An investigation into issues faced by culturally and linguistically diverse artists in Western Australia report. One of the key recommendations of the Report (Recommendation 7) was to: “Guarantee funding for Multicultural Arts Officers (MAOs)”. It recommended that MAOs would work with selected communities to forge links with key individuals in that community with a view to developing partnerships and relationships and to facilitate links between communities and assisting cultural groups with their arts needs.

I support the position of a MAO to encourage the creativity of CaLD artists, increase employment opportunities for CaLD artists and connect migrant communities to the State’s cultural institutions, local governments and the business sector.

I seek your support for the funding of a permanent MAO at KULCHA for the reasons outlined above.

G M (John) Castrilli MLA
MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT; HERITAGE; CITIZENSHIP AND MULTICULTURAL INTERESTS

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