

Regional Arts Boards Review – Arts NSW Response and Implementation Plan

The Regional Arts Board (RAB) network is unique to NSW. Together the 14 RABs service over 100 local government areas and more than 1.7 million people, providing a crucial link between NSW Government and regional arts activity across NSW.

Recognising the key role played by the RAB network in delivering strategic support for arts and cultural development activities in regional NSW, Arts NSW provided over \$1.96 million to the network in 2014/15.

Arts NSW supports RABs in partnership with local government. This partnership is the key to sustaining each RABs ability to respond to the unique and diverse needs of regional communities, build regional partnerships, and tailor services to the specific needs of their communities.

Over the next 3 years Arts NSW is looking to strengthen the partnership with local government and will be actively encouraging councils and RABs to develop Memoranda of Understanding confirming funding contributions and formalising partnership arrangements between RABs and councils.

At the same time, Arts NSW will be assisting RABs to move to skills based boards to strengthen their governance and capacity as regional organisations that can deliver on arts and culture outcomes for both Arts NSW and local government.

To increase RABs capacity, in 2015/16 Arts NSW has set aside additional funds to be directed towards targeted professional development activities for RAB's.

Review Recommendations Implementation Plan	
Recommendation	Notes
1. Best practice governance models	Arts NSW will support the transition to skills based boards over the next triennium and provide templates and resources to assist RABs in the process.
2. Partnership agreements with local governments	Arts NSW will strongly encourage the adoption of MoUs between RABs and councils to formalise partnership arrangements and funding support.
	Arts NSW will encourage Councils to contribute financial support at the minimum rate as set out by Regional Arts NSW.
3. Capacity building programs	Arts NSW will support targeted professional development activities for each RAB.
	Arts NSW will work with Regional Arts NSW to put together a longer-term professional development program for each RAB by June 2016.
4. Relationship between RABs and RANSW	Arts NSW will work with Regional Arts NSW to develop a statement of roles and responsibilities by June 2016.
5. Effective service models	Arts NSW will consider changes to RAB regional footprints following Fit for the Future reforms.
6. Development, improvement and revitalisation	Arts NSW will continue to provide direction and support to RABs and collaborate with key stakeholders to support the delivery of services.