



**The Hon Tony Burke MP**  
Minister for Home Affairs  
Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs  
Minister for Cyber Security  
Minister for the Arts  
Leader of the House

MS24-001686

Ms Rachel Perkins  
Chair  
Australian Film, Television and Radio School Council  
PO Box 2286  
STRAWBERRY HILLS NSW 2012

Dear Ms Perkins *Rachel*

I am writing to set out my expectations of the Australian Film, Television and Radio School for the 2024-25 financial year.

It has been over a year since the Australian Government launched Australia's cultural policy *Revive* and I would like to acknowledge the School's efforts to incorporate it into its 2023-24 activities and future plans. The School plays an important role in educating Australia's screen and broadcast workforce, and I greatly appreciate the enduring dedication and support you continue to make to Australian arts and culture.

*Revive* Pillar 1, First Nations First, commits to recognising and respecting the crucial place of First Nations stories at the centre of Australia's arts and culture. In May 2024, I was pleased to announce \$530,000 to develop an audit of First Nations employment and training in the sector and establish a First Nations Bridging Program. These measures will assist the School to create pathways for emerging First Nations talent from remote and regional areas, ensuring they have the opportunity to tell their unique stories. I look forward to the School's progress in delivering these initiatives and existing programs in support of First Nations students.

With the celebration of your 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2023, I commend the continued dedication to delivering world-class talent as the backbone of the Australia's screen and broadcast industries. It's pleasing to see your achievements continue throughout 2023-24, including your commitment to increasing reach across Australia. The implementation of a flexible learning framework to allow students to engage remotely in learning opportunities, while continuing to embed industry-partnered learning, is an excellent achievement.

I wish to congratulate the School on the success of the AFTRS Digital Futures Summit in April 2024, which included a focus on Artificial Intelligence. I appreciate the School's focus in the discussion of AI's effects on education and the creative industries, and encourage the School to remain engaged in this evolving discussion on emerging technology.

Following the financial sustainability review undertaken in 2023-24, the provision of an additional \$3.8 million in 2024-25 will position the School to address immediate workforce

and operating pressures, while building in growth by 2028-29 to guarantee your role as an innovative leader into the future. I encourage the School to continue building on its approach with the other national arts training organisations, as together these organisations are critical to fostering the generation of talent across the creative industries.

I ask that through its core work, the School continues to deliver in industry-relevant training, talent development, outreach, and applied innovation research. I also ask the School to focus on the following strategic priorities in 2024-25:

- Adhere to and promote Australia's cultural policy *Revive*
- Continue to embed First Nations values to build capacity and knowledge of staff, graduates and industry;
- Work with federal and state entities to address capacity gaps in the sector;
- Support development of knowledge and resources to embrace emerging technology;
- Engage with the Australian games development industry on training opportunities to benefit from the Government's support, including the Digital Games Tax Offset, which is increasing Australia's market share in a rapidly expanding global sector and growing highly-skilled transferable jobs;
- Continue to explore opportunities to grow private sector support and increase own-source revenue;
- Continue to undertake data collection and research to strengthen understanding of the challenges and opportunities for the sector;
- Continue to attract students outside of NSW and advance the School's national reach to grow and develop the sector at a national level; and
- Engage with industry on training opportunities to support the Government's workforce capacity requirements under the Location Offset and other initiatives.

In delivering on the School's core work and these priorities, I ask you continue the strong positive relationship with the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts, as well as other portfolio agencies.

I look forward to your response in the form of a Statement of Intent as to how the School intends to meet the Government's expectations. This Statement of Expectations and your corresponding Statement of Intent form an important component of your organisation's governance framework. As such, I expect both documents will be made publicly available. I have copied this letter to the Chief Executive Officer, Dr Nell Greenwood.

I wish the School every success in continuing to contribute to the cultural growth of Australia.

Yours sincerely



**TONY BURKE**

11/10/2024

cc Dr Nell Greenwood, CEO, Australian Film, Television and Radio School