

Artsource Stands for the Arts

National Day of Action – 17 June 2016



[Artsource](#) is voting for the Arts and is adding its voice to the [National Day of Action](#) campaign on 17 June 2016. Local artists are invited to assemble with Artsource Staff and Members on Friday 17 June at 10.45am outside Old Customs House, 8 Phillimore Street, Fremantle. The photo call will unite and encourage voters to send a strong message of support for the arts in the lead up to the Federal Election on 2 July.

The [National Day of Action](#) has been called for Friday 17 June in response to the cuts to the arts budget over the last two years. At last week's [National Arts Debate](#) both Labor and the Greens outlined their respective arts policies. The Coalition did not offer one.

Artsource, together with other leading arts organisation in Western Australia, is supporting the call from our Chamber of Arts and Culture WA for:

- > A long-term National Arts Policy, supported by evidence-based data and shaped by open and respectful consultation with the arts and cultural sector, including individual artists.
- > Commitment to properly resource the implementation of the National Arts Policy to achieve its objectives.
- > Recognition of the challenges that large states like WA face in giving artists, audiences and communities access to, and participation in, diverse arts and cultural activities throughout the state and beyond our borders.
- > The immediate restoration of the federal arts funding level to that which accompanied the Creative Australia policy in 2013 with its increase of \$235 million over four years.
- > Commitment to indexation of arts funding.
- > Commitment to the primacy and independence of the Australia Council for the Arts as the major arm's length federal arts funding body.
- > The return of unspent monies from the Catalyst budget to the Australia Council. If Catalyst continues to exist it should be with greater transparency of decision-making and resourced through new money found outside the current arts budget.

- > A greater and more collegiate collaboration between the Ministry for the Arts, the Australia Council and the state arts funding agencies so that a truly national grid exists to support artists, arts organisations and audience development.

Gavin Buckley, CEO of Artsource, says, *"The arts make a huge contribution to our nation, culturally and economically. It is vital that the federal government has an evidence-based National Arts Policy, built upon open and respectful consultation with the arts and cultural sector."*

Dr Miik Green, Chair of Artsource, says *"Artsource wants to see improved Federal funding and recognition for WA visual artists. This election gives us all an opportunity to take action; by voting for candidates who understand the importance of the arts, can articulate clear cultural policy and commit to funding the sector properly."*

– ENDS –

For all enquiries, artist interviews and high-resolution images please contact:

Sue-Lyn Aldrian-Moyle, Marketing Officer, suelyn@artsource.net.au, +61 8 9335 8366

ARTSOURCE NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION

- > **When:** 10.45am, 17 June 2016
- > **Address:** Old Customs House, 8 Phillimore Street, Fremantle

Join us to show your support for the National Day of Action on social media, and vote for the candidates with the best arts policies on 2 July 2016.

NOTES FOR EDITORS

Artsource is the peak membership body for visual artists in Western Australia

We have over 950 members sharing our vision of a world in which culture and the arts are valued as vital and where visual arts flourish. We support artists and help to build their practice and careers with practical, affordable and relevant services, opportunities and represent their interests. Artsource champions the value of the visual arts to a growing audience around Western Australia, our nation and internationally.