



Mr Dick Roughsey, Chairman of the Aboriginal Arts Board

ABORIGINAL ARTS BOARD GRANTS

Prior to its January meeting in Melbourne, the Aboriginal Arts Board of the Australian Council for the Arts had announced a further series of grants totalling more than \$130,000.

Although the number of applications being submitted to the Board is increasing, its budgeted funds for performing arts have been almost fully committed in both traditional and urban categories. Emphasis is now being placed on the field of visual arts among tribal groups.

The recommendations made by the 400 participants in the National Arts Seminar have been reviewed favourably by the Board and in many instances written into policy.

One of the resolutions already implemented is the formation of an advisory committee on Urban Theatre, Film and Video. This Committee is composed of Brian Syron, Eileen Lester and Lester Bostock of Sydney; Bruce McGuinness and Harry Williams of Melbourne; and Mrs Ruby Hammond of Adelaide.

The Committee held discussions with Mr Charles Perkins and has obtained support from the Department of Aboriginal Affairs for the lease of extensive premises in Redfern for the Sydney Black Theatre group. Community arts projects involving dance, drama and writers' workshops, pottery and crafts are being developed.

The Committee has recommended support for Black Theatre groups in all capital cities rather than the concept of limiting development to the Sydney and Melbourne groups.

Of the applications considered by the Aboriginal Arts Board, the following are those which it has recommended to the Prime Minister for approval:

PERFORMING ARTS

(i) <i>Traditional Theatre</i>	\$
<i>Aboriginal Theatre Foundation</i>	
Administration and operation expenses for north Australia traditional music and dance.	56,256
(ii) <i>Urban Theatre</i>	
<i>National Black Theatre, Sydney</i>	
Administrative expenses and funds for workshops to be carried out in theatre building rented by the Department of Aboriginal Affairs.	16,185
<i>Arts Council of Australia (Victorian Division)</i>	
Director's salary and administrative expenses for Nindethana Theatre for 6 months.	6,700
<i>Arts Council of Australia (Queensland Division)</i>	
Assistance for theatre productions by Torres Strait Island Dance Company in Brisbane.	2,550
<i>Arts Council of Australia (Queensland Division)</i>	
Assistance with first production by Black Theatre Company on Palm Island.	1,000