

Australia Council for the Arts

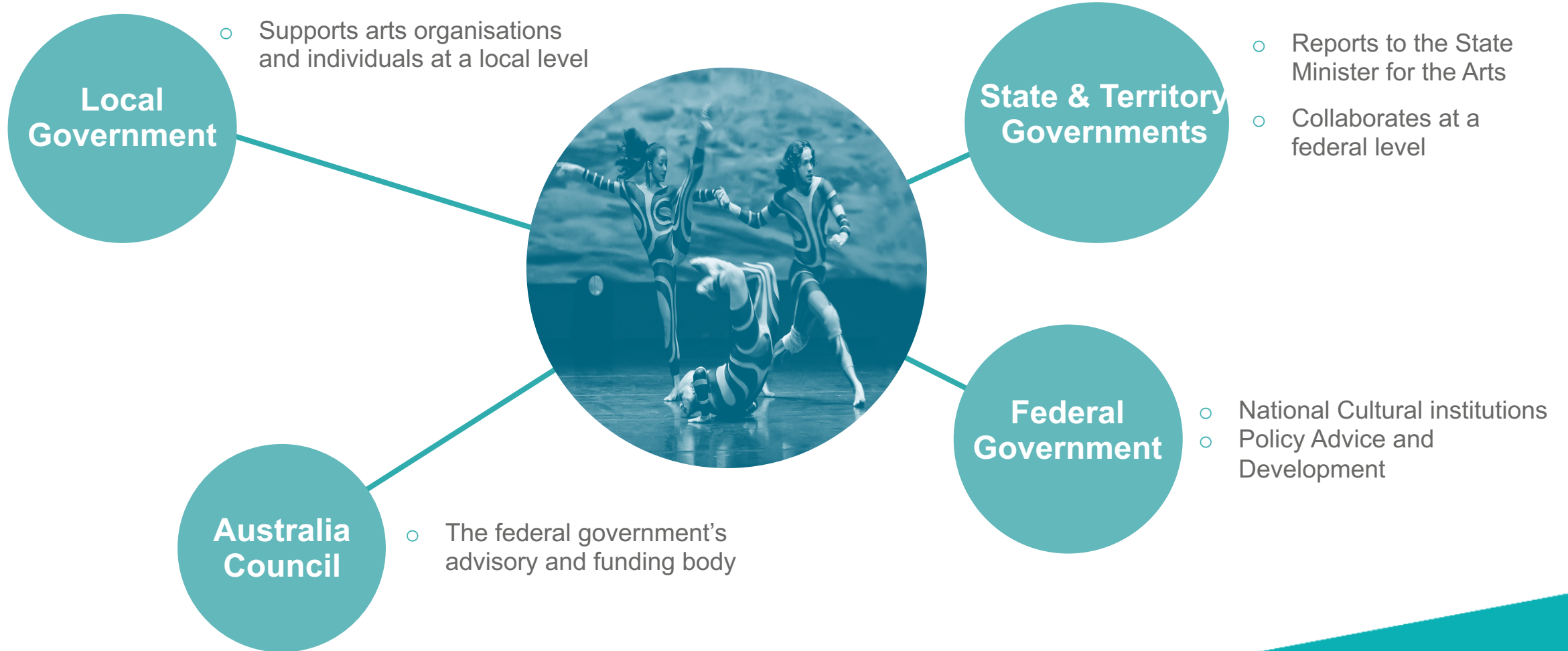
Amrit Gill

Director International Development



Installation view of Choi Jeong Hwa's *The Mandala Flowers*, Queensland Arts Gallery, APT8, 2016.
Credit: Brodie Standen

The Government Structure



What we do

The purpose of the Australia Council is to champion and invest in Australian arts.

The Council's role:

- national advocate for the arts
- supporting excellence and diversity across all art forms
- increasing national and international engagement with Australian arts
- building a vibrant and sustainable arts ecology across its programs.

The Council's programs include:

- grants for artists and arts organisations to create, develop and present their work
- government directed initiatives and frameworks
- strategic research and analysis to build the evidence base for the arts
- market development and capacity building activity

Activity

- Australia Council's 2014 – 2019 strategic plan: *A Culturally Ambitious Nation*
- Holistic and streamlined grant programs to support individual artists, groups and organisations
- Four Year Funding for arts organisations of significant regional, national or international standing from 2017
- Administering funding to 28 companies under the Major Performing Arts Framework
- Research and evaluation to increase the evidence base for the arts, inform policy development and promote a national conversation about arts and culture
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts initiatives
- Strategic national and international development to meet the needs and priorities of the arts sector
- Capacity building programs for arts leaders and organisations

Cultural Engagement Framework





Bunny by Luke George and Daniel Kok
Credit: Chris Frape

Australia Council Review 2012

“The Review recommends that a new model for grant allocation be implemented that: a) Replaces the standing Artform Board structure with a general stream for grant applications across all artforms; and b) Maintains the centrality of peer assessment but promotes flexibility and breadth by [allowing] for more peers to become involved in assessment and thereby diversifying the mix of peers.”

Review of the Australia Council , 2012

Grants Program

Four Year Funding for Organisations

\$100,000 - \$500,000 p.a

Arts Projects for Individuals and Groups

\$10,000 - \$50,000

Fellowships

\$80,000

Arts Projects - Organisations

\$10,000 - \$100,000

Career Development Grants for Individuals and Groups

\$5,000 - \$25,000

Four Year Funding

- Multi-year funding an important component of Council's grant program
- Each iteration of multi-year funding is a new process, not a continuation of current arrangements
- All arts practices assessed at the same time for consistency
- Four Year Funding is not the best fit for every organisation
- We currently invest approximately \$28m per annum in 124 FYFOs

Four Year Funding

- Multi-year funding for arts organisations with a compelling four year vision
- Organisations delivering artistic programs or services for the arts to a high standard
- Organisations registered under Australian law, or created by law
- Requests of \$100,000 to \$500,000 per year
- Two-stage application process

Career Development Grants

- Not offered by all artform areas prior to 2015
- More opportunities for access – open to early career, mid career and established artists and arts workers
- Activity includes residencies, research and development, conferences and meeting attendance
- Up to \$25,000
- Fellowships and Awards also available for established artists



Blood on the Dance Floor, ILBIJERRI Theatre Company.
Credit: Bryony Jackson

Peer Assessment

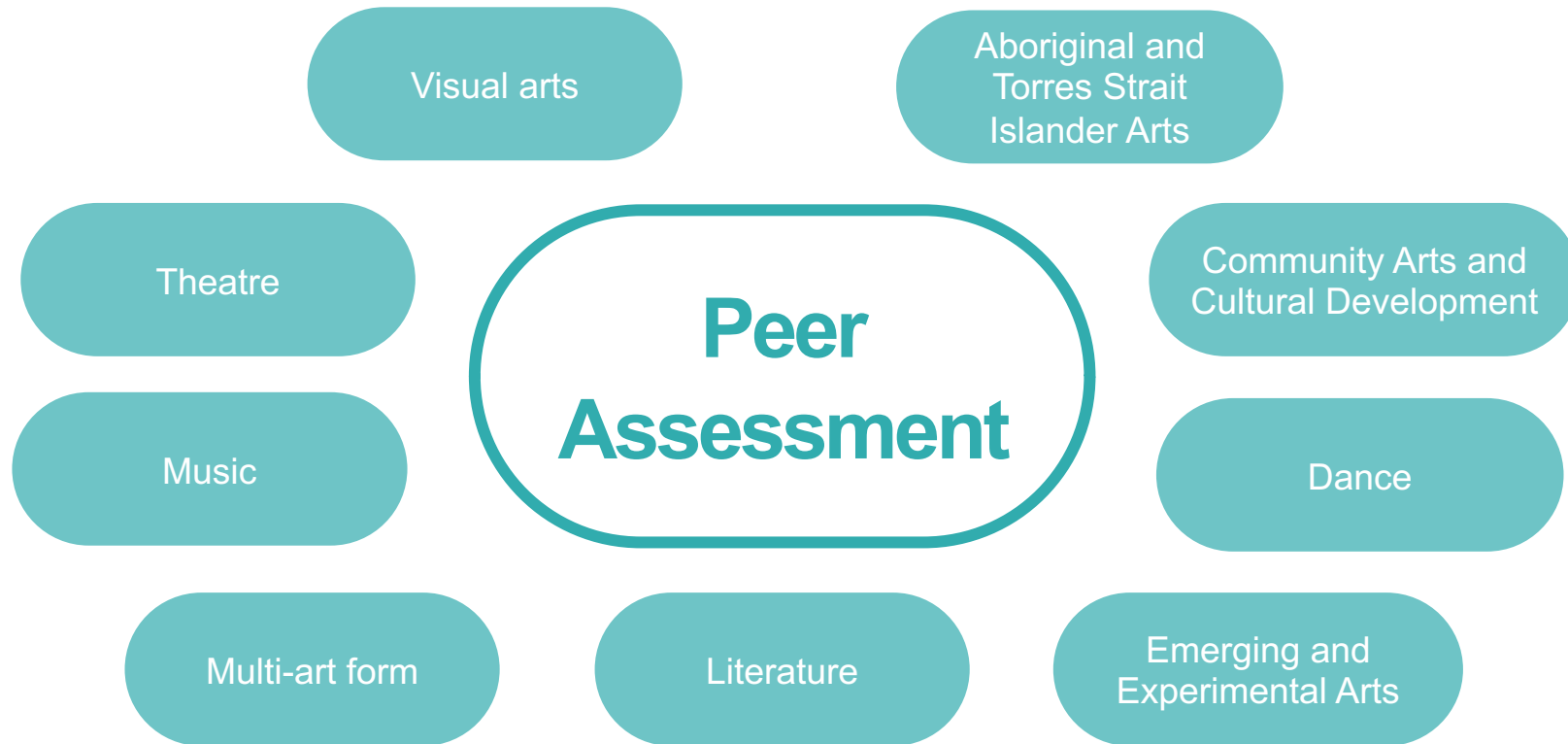
Two important principles guide how funding is allocated through our grants model

- Decisions are made at arm's length from Government
- Grant applications are assessed by peers with arts expertise, who consider the merit of applications against published criteria in competition with others

Our assessment model up to 30 June 2013 comprised

- Artform Boards and peer advisors
- Peer assessment panels
- Average scores, standard deviations

Peer Assessment



Peer Assessment

- Deliberative decision making
- The decision making standard is the merit of the applications in responding to the published selection criteria
- The decision making method is mutual agreement, based on reasoned arguments put forward by peer assessors

Peer Assessment

- 5-10 experienced peers on each panel
- Diverse representation across
 - Genres of arts practice
 - Artistic roles and experience
 - Geography
 - Cultural background
 - Gender
 - Disability
 - Age

Flexibility, Breadth & Diversity

Between May 2014 and April 2017, **647 individuals** peer assessed Australia Council grants

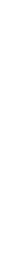
- 24% were from regional or remote areas
- 16% identified as Culturally And Linguistically Diverse
- 17% identified as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
- 5% identified with disability



Mary Katatjuku Pan from Amata (SA) pictured with Punu Kutjara (Two Trees) by Mary Katatjuku Pan, Ilawanti Ungkutjuru Ken, Niningka Lewis, Imiyari Frank and Tjunkaya Tapaya. 2016.
Image by Rhett Hammerton © Tjanpi Desert Weavers, NPY Women's Council



Australian Government



**Australia
Council**

for the Arts

