



PO Box 60 Potts Point  
NSW 1335 Australia  
  
T +61 2 9368 1900 F +61 2  
9358 6909 E  
nava@visualarts.net.au  
www.visualarts.net.au  
  
ACN 003 229 285 ABN 16  
003 229 285

NAVA gratefully acknowledges the assistance provided by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body, and by the Visual Arts and Craft Strategy, an initiative of the Australian, State and Territory Governments.

Patrons: Pat Corrigan AM  
Professor David Theobald



**MEDIA RELEASE**

**14 May 2008**

## **Garrett Announces Less Starving for Artists**

Announced in last night's budget, the allocation of \$1.5 million over three years for the establishment of a resale royalty scheme for Australian visual artists, was warmly welcomed by the National Association for the Visual Arts (NAVA). NAVA is the peak body representing the professional interests of the Australian visual arts and craft/design sector.

NAVA's Executive Director Tamara Winikoff said today "The funds flowing from a resale royalty will provide Australian artists with a much needed income stream. This is one important way to overcome artists starving in garrets."

"After 20 years of lobbying for this right to be legislated, NAVA is celebrating today", said Winikoff. "The government has made good its election promise and for Australia's Indigenous artists in particular, we should see the benefits become quickly evident."

However, there were important omissions in the budget. While NAVA endorsed the importance of the \$7.6 million allocation for Indigenous Art and Craft Industry Support, it questioned the lack of funding to support the rollout of the Indigenous Australian Art Commercial Code of Conduct (IAACCC).

"This code produced by NAVA, in partnership with Desart and ANKAAA, is just about ready to go, but needs funding to establish mechanisms for monitoring and compliance otherwise it will be toothless" said Winikoff

It is well understood that Indigenous art is a vitally important source of income for Indigenous people living in remote communities. However, the degree of exploitation motivated the previous government to hold a Senate Inquiry. Many of the recommendations endorsed the importance of an industry code.

"One of the other budget benefits for visual artists is the \$5.2 million for the artists in residence program for schools and universities. Winikoff continued, "For a young person, nothing compares with the direct experience of working side by side with a professional artist, understanding the ideas, the passion, the inspiration and well of creativity that drives their work".

"We hope this foreshadows the government's intention to see the arts introduced into the school curriculum as recommended by the 2020 Summit and in the National Review of Visual Education awaiting the government's response," continued Winikoff.

NAVA also welcomed the other funding allocations of \$6.6 million over four years for young and emerging artists, including programs through the Australia Council to develop their professional skills and expertise, build professional connections, networks and audiences.

**For comment contact Tamara Winikoff ph: (02) 9368 1900 or m: 0411162156**