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Resale Royalty Response by Art Sector

The passage through parliament of the long awaited Resale Royalty Right for Visual Artists Bill 2008 was today welcomed in principle by The National Association for the Visual Arts (NAVA), the peak body representing the sector in Australia.

The great majority of Australian artists and their representative organisations (including NAVA), had warmly welcomed the Government's commitment to the introduction of this legislation as part of its election platform in 2007.

Most of the main features of the model in the new legislation match those called for by artists including the rate being 5% on all secondary sales made through a market intermediary, its being uncapped, the low entry threshold of \$1000 and its duration being the same as for copyright.

The visual arts community is gratified that this legislation provides another means by which artists can earn income from their art practice, similar to the royalty entitlements enjoyed by writers and composers. It also affirms artists' on-going relationship with their work and the value of art as a shared community asset.

Tamara Winikoff, Executive Director of NAVA commented, "There is no question that the resale royalty is a right that artists have wanted very much for a long time and eventually it will be of great value to them."

"We are sure that Arts Minister Peter Garrett has the best of intentions and has worked hard to try to meet his commitment to Australian artists," continued Winikoff.

"NAVA has had concerns about aspects of the model which will cause delays in the artists receiving the royalty, however, we are very keen to see the scheme succeed."

"We also hope that that fact the right is intended to be inalienable will be respected by art buyers and the intermediaries in the sale, so that artists are not put under pressure to act in other than their own best interests. This applies especially to the Indigenous artists that the royalty is particularly aiming to assist," Winikoff continued.

In the interests of seeing the best possible scheme operating in Australia, NAVA supports the government's commitment to review this artists' resale royalty model through closely monitoring its operations and evaluating its efficacy in 5 years, to decide whether some adjustments might be advantageous.

For media comment call Tamara Winikoff on: 02 9368 1900 or m. 0411 162 156