



# MEDIA RELEASE

**The Hon Peter Garrett MP**

*Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts*

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ENV09

13 May 2008

## **RESALE ROYALTY RIGHTS FOR AUSTRALIA'S VISUAL ARTISTS**

The Rudd Labor Government has announced \$1.5 million over three years in the 2008-09 Budget to support the establishment of a resale royalty scheme for visual artists, Minister for the Arts, Peter Garrett, said today.

Mr Garrett said the initiative is designed to fund the start-up and initial costs for a collecting agency to set up the necessary infrastructure to collect royalties and return them to the artists.

“A resale royalty scheme will provide further recognition of the critical contribution artists make to our identity, community and economy. The scheme will provide artists with proper recognition on their ongoing rights in their work and will provide a potential additional source of income.

“This scheme will bring Australia into line with similar resale royalty arrangements operating in the United Kingdom and Europe and will embody the recognition that visual artists' rights extend beyond the first sale of an artwork,” Mr Garrett said.

In line with overseas schemes, an independent collecting society will be appointed to administer the scheme. It is anticipated that an open tender process will be conducted in the second half of 2008 to select an appropriate organisation.

Mr Garrett said the scheme would reflect the particular characteristics of the Australian art market and maximise the benefits to artists.

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