



PAUL FLETCHER MP
Federal Member for Bradfield
Minister for Communications,
Cyber Safety and the Arts

MS20-000423

Mr Russel Howcroft
Chair
Australian Film, Television and Radio School Council
PO Box 2286
Strawberry Hills NSW 2012

Dear Mr ^{Russel}Howcroft

I am writing to outline my expectations for the Australian Film, Television and Radio School (AFTRS) for 2020-21.

I first want to acknowledge the work of AFTRS in 2019-20, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. The impact of COVID-19 on the creative sectors has been extremely serious, and all who care about the arts in Australia have found it distressing to see productions halted, and artists, performers and other arts and creative sector workers out of work not able to do what they do best.

During this time, the swift actions by the AFTRS leadership in adapting to a COVID-safe environment for its staff and students, and then more broadly working in the Australian Screen Sector Taskforce to develop COVID-Safe Guidelines, has been exemplary. In particular, these Guidelines will be instrumental in enabling the Australian screen industry to not only get back to work, but to be a world leader in resuming production as we recover from the pandemic. I am of the view that the sector provides a strong example of how business can adapt to operate safely as we resume social and economic activities.

The disruption to screen and broadcasting sector market dynamics caused by COVID-19 has accentuated the existing issues in the sector. There has never been a more important time to consider the policy settings needed to support our broadcast and production industries now and into the future, which is the intention underpinning consultation on the *Supporting Australian Stories on our Screens: Options Paper*. I look forward to working with AFTRS in supporting outcomes of this consultation to foster a vibrant and productive Australian screen and broadcasting sector.

As Australia's national training, education and research institution for screen and broadcast media, the business of delivering industry-relevant and future-focused education, research and training will remain AFTRS' key focus for 2020-21. I expect that through its core work, AFTRS will continue to deliver in the areas of industry relevant training, talent development, outreach, applied innovation research and organisational efficiency.

In addition, I ask AFTRS to focus in on the following strategic priorities in 2020-21:

- working collaboratively with the screen and broadcasting sector in its recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic;
- supporting the outcomes of the *Supporting Australian Stories on our Screens: Options Paper* consultation;
- continuing to explore opportunities to grow private sector support and increase own-source revenue;
- focusing on how the work of the School can encourage social cohesion and foster diversity and inclusion;
- continuing to undertake data collection and research to strengthen understanding of the challenges and opportunities for the sector;
- considering opportunities to recognise the contribution of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture to Australian society; and
- harnessing the sector's contribution to innovation and the economy.

I note that many of these areas are already being actively progressed by AFTRS. The AFTRS Council should continue to foster a strong vision for the School as well as develop clear and achievable objectives for its operations in 2020-21 and beyond. AFTRS is fortunate to have strong leadership at this time of uncertainty. I trust that the appointment of Dr Nell Greenwood as Director and your reappointment as Chair will continue to provide direction and stability to enable the School to thrive. With this clear focus, AFTRS will be well placed to continue to deliver against its vision to be the reference point for innovation in screen, sound and story-making globally.

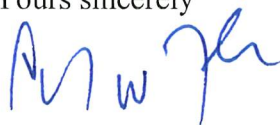
I acknowledge the participation of AFTRS in the Arts 8 group of arts training organisations. I look forward to learning more about the outcomes achieved by this group over the coming year.

I encourage the School to continue working cooperatively with my Department and other portfolio agencies in contributing to the Government's policy priorities. I also ask that you continue to alert me and my Department to any significant events or developments related to the activities and functions of the School.

This Statement of Expectations and your corresponding Statement of Intent form an important component of AFTRS' governance framework. As such, I would anticipate both being public documents. I have written to convey my expectations for 2020-21 to all arts portfolio agencies, and have copied this letter to the Director of AFTRS, Dr Nell Greenwood.

I wish you and the AFTRS Council and executive team success in meeting outcomes and objectives for 2020-21.

Yours sincerely



Paul Fletcher

27/ 8/ 2020