

OFFICIAL



The Hon Tony Burke MP
Minister for Home Affairs
Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs
Minister for Cyber Security
Minister for the Arts
Leader of the House

MS25-002493

Ms Rachel Perkins
Chair
Australian Film, Television and Radio School Council
PO Box 2286
STRAWBERRY HILLS NSW 2012

Dear Ms Perkins

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Rachel'.

I am writing to outline my expectations of the Australian Film, Television and Radio School (the School) for the 2025-26 financial year. The 2025-26 Statement of Expectations should be read alongside Australia's National Cultural Policy, *Revive*, and the Council's statutory obligations under the *Australian Film, Television and Radio School Act 1973* (AFTRS Act) and the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act).

As we enter the second half of *Revive*'s implementation, I commend the School for the role it has played to date in supporting a vibrant, resilient and diverse screen and broadcast sector. I expect the School Council and management to remain focused on strengthening Australian stories at home and abroad, supporting the sector to strongly contribute to Australia's cultural life, creative economy and international reputation as a global leader in the screen and audio industries.

I am pleased the School is building on its First Nations Strategic Plan through its *On Country Pathways* program, providing tailored training to support emerging First Nations storytellers in remote, rural and regional Australia. In February 2025, I was also pleased to provide the School with \$500,000 to provide First Nations and financially disadvantaged students of the school with affordable, fit-for-purpose student accommodation. The School has a proven history of championing First Nations-led storytelling and building sustainable pathways into the industry, particularly to those from regional and remote Australia. I greatly appreciate the School's commitment to delivering these initiatives and look forward to seeing its progress.

In the 2025-26 financial year, I expect the School to deliver on the following priorities:

- Continue to give effect to *Revive* through the School's programs and priorities, and contribute actively to the development of the next National Cultural Policy, which will commence in early 2026;
- In accordance with the AFTRS Act, continue to deliver industry-relevant training, talent development, outreach and applied innovation research;
- Work in partnership with my department to implement actions aligned with *Equity: the Arts and Disability Associated Plan*, including supporting research and sector

outreach to deliver activities supporting greater equity for d/Deaf and disabled artists and arts workers;

- Focus on scaling the implementation of the School's Industry Skills Framework to build research and insights, respond to the rapidly evolving needs of the screen and broadcast industries, and identify and address critical skills gaps;
- Continue to collaborate with the ARTS8 national arts training organisations, including through the annual ARTS8 collaboration, and champion the work of ARTS8 organisations more broadly;
- Address the ongoing need for hyperlocal content makers and skilled regional producers through the School's Flexible Delivery Framework, which allows students to participate in studies from their homes in regional Australia;
- Develop a remote learning strategy which will continue to advance the School's national reach by allowing all Australians to access the School's world-class screen and broadcast training;
- Engage collaboratively with industry on training opportunities to support major Government initiatives such as the workforce capacity and training requirements under the Location Offset;
- Support Australia's creative sector to expand into the Asia Pacific region with partnerships and knowledge exchange, including through the School's Pacific Engagement Project; and
- Maintain high standards of governance, probity and integrity, ensuring accountability to government, industry and the public, consistent with the PGPA Act.

During the performance of these functions, I ask the School to maintain its close and cooperative relationship with my Department and other portfolio agencies, while respecting the independence of the School Council in its decision-making.

I ask the School's Council to prepare a Statement of Intent in response to and for publication alongside this letter, outlining how the School will meet the Government's expectations in 2025-26. As such, I am writing to all arts portfolio agencies in similar terms and have copied this letter to the School's Chief Executive Officer, Dr Nell Greenwood.

I look forward to continuing to work with you to deliver on these priorities for Australia's screen and broadcast sector.

Yours sincerely



TONY BURKE

25 / 9 / 2025

cc: Dr Nell Greenwood, Chief Executive Office, Australian Film, Television and Radio School