



The Place To Be

Media release

From the Minister for the Arts

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UNIVERSITY RESPONSE TO VCA REVIEW WELCOMED

The Brumby Labor Government has today welcomed the University of Melbourne's response to the recommendations of the Switkowski Review of the Victorian College of the Arts (VCA) but said it would continue to work on long term plans to preserve the integrity and funding base of the VCA into the future.

Minister for the Arts Peter Batchelor said the response was an important step forward in resolving issues around the future of the VCA.

"The University's reply today responds to concerns raised by Save VCA and other interested groups," Mr Batchelor said.

"The VCA plays a significant role in Victoria's vibrant arts industry and our Government is keen to ensure that a high level of studio-based training is maintained and, where possible, enhanced."

Mr Batchelor said key features of the University's response include:

- The creation of two discrete entities within the faculty of the VCA and Music, each with their own directors and responsibilities for curriculum and budget;
- The retention of studio-based training, intensive practice and performance;
- The suspension of the introduction of the Melbourne Model at the VCA;
- Curriculum reviews by the two new entities for completion by the end of the year, including the re-evaluation of the Music Theatre and Puppetry courses; and
- The continuation of a cross-subsidy of the VCA Faculty by the University.

Mr Batchelor said the Brumby Labor Government would continue work to find a long-term solution for the VCA, so that it continues to provide a high quality education to the state's artists.

"We have been having constructive conversations with the Commonwealth, particularly with the new Education Minister Simon Crean and the Federal candidate for Melbourne Cath Bowtell about how to better support the VCA," Mr Batchelor said.

"These discussions will continue in the light of the University's response."

Minister for Education, Skills and Workforce Participation Bronwyn Pike said she was pleased with today's progress.

"We are acutely aware of the important contribution the VCA makes to arts education nationally and I'm pleased that the value of its teaching methods have been acknowledged by the University," she said.