

RECOMMENDATION for need to develop a Best Practice Model in the making of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander work. (Friday 31st May 2013)

As Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander theatre makers at the 2013 Australian Theatre Forum:

We believe we are at a critical moment in defining and shaping this country. As the foundation of the cultural landscape, we have a responsibility to establish the standards for the future.

It was identified there is an urgent need to establish a Best Practice Model in the making and presentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander theatre work and work of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander content.

Therefore, we request that the Australian Theatre Forum recommends the Australia Council support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander theatre makers to develop a Best Practice Model.

In the spirit of this recommendation, this process must be driven by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander sector itself.

This recommendation was read out to those in attendance at the Australian Theatre Forum in Canberra at 3pm Friday 31st May (last day of the forum) and if a show of hands was anything to go by, the support requested was generously given.

The urgency of this recommendation was partially motivated by the knowledge that the National Indigenous Theatre Forum (Held annually for the last 3 years in Cairns by the Queensland Arts during CIAF) is currently under threat due to savage funding cuts by the QLD Government. The critical need for these rare opportunities for Industry leaders to meet and proactively determine the future of the Indigenous Performing Arts in this country is paramount and its potential loss a grave concern to all.

Those in attendance included: Rachael Maza, David Milroy, Kyle Morrison, John Harvey, Margaret Harvey, Lisa Maza, Eva Mullaley, Isaac Drandic, Carla Hart,

Maitland Schnaars, Alexis West, , Teila Watson, Nakkiah Lui, Andrea James, Colin Kinchela, Fred Copperwaite, Sonny Dallas Law, Louana Sainsbury.
Those in support include: Jason Tamiru, Wesley Enoch.