

# Government Policy, Strategy, Funding

## 1960s to 2020s



**1970s — Arts & Disability / Disability Arts in schools, residential, community, and non-mainstream settings**

**1980s — Campaigns for Access, Inclusion and Representation**

**1990s — Publication of Guides, Toolkits, and Resources**

**2000s — Implementation of Policy**

**2010s — Funding for projects, artists, and arts organisations**

**2020s — Recognition of d/Deaf, Disabled, and Neurodivergent artists' role and leadership**

Australia Council for the Arts Funding for projects – Australian Theatre of the Deaf, Lorna Hodgkinson Sunshine Home, Braille and Talking Book Library/Awards

1981 International Year of Disabled Persons a catalyst for projects

Australia Council for the Arts notes commissioning of study on arts and disability 1979-80-81 Annual Reports, and publishes 'The Arts and People with Disabilities: A code of practice for arts organisations' in 1989

Australia Council for the Arts funds Access Arts organisations – e.g. Arts Access Society Victoria (established 1974), Access Arts (established 1983)

Australia Council for the Arts releases its first Disability Action Plan, publishes key resources – 'Arts & Disability' report by Juliet London and Des Walsh in 1995, 'Making the arts work for everyone: a resource and information kit' in partnership with Arts Access Victoria in 1995, Disability Fact Book for each state in partnership with Arts Access Australia (formerly DADAA National Network) in 1998, and 'Access All Areas: Guidelines for Marketing the Arts to People with Disabilities' in partnership with Arts Access Australia (formerly DADAA National Network) in 1999

Australia Council for the Arts continues to fund projects, programs, and organisations

Australia Council starts publishing key economic studies, showing the participation of d/Deaf, Disabled and Neurodivergent people – e.g. 'Don't Give Up Your Day Job: An Economic Study of Professional Artists in Australia' by David Throsby and Katya Petetskaya in 2003

Australia Council for the Arts publishes reports profiling Arts and Disability / Disability Arts organisations, including 'Australian Arts Snapshots – Disability & the Arts' in 2002, and, in collaboration with Arts Access Australia, 'Making the Journey: Arts & Disability in Australia' by Mary Hutchison in 2005

The Cultural Ministers Council launches first National Arts & Disability Strategy in 2009

Victorian government commissions 'Picture This: Increasing the Cultural Participation of People with a Disability in Victoria' in 2009

DADAA in Western Australia, in partnership with Arts Access Australia, publishes 'Art Works: Employment in the Arts for People with Disability' in 2012, including information about key barriers – DADAA publishes evaluation of year long mentoring program in 2014

Australian Office for the Arts presents draft of proposed Creative Australia: National Cultural Policy in 2013, critiqued for use of language referencing 'tolerance' of d/Deaf, Disabled, and Neurodivergent artists

NSW Arts & Disability Partnership announces \$475,000 funding for projects, artists, and organisations in 2015

Screen Australia publishes 'Seeing Ourselves' report on disability and screen in 2016, with follow up report in 2023  
South Australian Film Corporation presents Disability Screen Strategy in 2018

Australia Council for the Arts produces further economic studies including information on participation of d/Deaf, Disabled, and Neurodivergent people in the arts – e.g. 'Making Art Work: An Economic Study of Professional Artists in Australia' in 2017

Australia Council for the Arts announces provision 'million dollar commitment' to grants/funding specifically for d/Deaf, Disabled, Neurodivergent artists in 2014, further investment in 2018, publishes 'Creating Pathways: Insights on support for artists with disability' report in 2018

Meeting of Cultural Ministers reports on evaluation of the National Arts & Disability Strategy in 2009-2012, and 2013-2015, publishes 'Research Overview: Arts and Disability in Australia' in 2018, and findings of public consultation on National Arts & Disability Strategy in 2019

National Disability Insurance Scheme launched, rolled out nation wide by 2020, effects landscape of funding for Arts and Disability / Disability Arts in Australia

Australian Government Office for the Arts launches new national cultural policy Revive in 2023

Creative Australia (known as Australia Council for the Arts 1975-2012, and Australia Council 2013-2022) releases further information on participation of d/Deaf, Disabled, and Neurodivergent people in the arts – 'Artists as Workers: An Economic Study of Professional Artists in Australia' by David Throsby and Katya Petetskaya in 2024

Creative Australia releases 'Towards Equity: A Research Overview of Diversity in the Arts' in 2022, 'Building Strong Foundations: Research on Arts and Disability Needs and Opportunities' in 2024, and 'Equity: The Arts and Disability Associated Plan' in 2024, including commitment to funding for accessibility, employment, and regular Arts and Disability forum, and development of a Code of Conduct/Guidelines in partnership with Office for the Arts and Screen Australia

Screen Australia launches an Access Coordinator program/training program in 2023

Queensland Government launches Arts & Disability Plan 2024-2026