

## FEDERAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN - Sample letter

DATE

NAME

ADDRESS

Dear Minister/ Senator/ Hon / Mr / Ms .....

I would like to voice my strong support for a better deal for Western Australia's State arts companies, in particular West Australian Ballet, of which I am a subscriber/ supporter/ Friend.....

I believe that arts and culture make an incredible difference to the lives of young people, are a crucial way of attracting skilled workers and their families to Western Australia, and are a strong motivator for making better communities. Western Australians deserve to have a rich and diverse cultural offering, but this offering is seriously constrained by lack of investment in our four major performing arts companies by the Federal Government.

It is disappointing to note that of the \$92 million provided by the Federal Government for Australia's 28 major performing arts companies, just \$7 million (7%) is allocated to Western Australia. That means WA's State companies have to work even harder to provide quality performances for Western Australians.

The Federal Government has been unwilling to make a commitment to West Australian Ballet for the additional 20% funding required (\$400,000) to augment the ballet troupe and to provide world class repertoire in WA – a crucial pillar of the new business plan which was supported with 80% (\$1.2 million) funding by the State Government from 2009. Likewise, in the last Federal funding review in 2007, West Australian Ballet achieved an increase of just \$25,000 (out of \$6 million national distribution). Less than 0.5%!

I would be very interested to learn more about your views on the value of arts and culture, and whether you will be making a stand for a better deal for West Australian Ballet and WA's other flagship companies.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,