

BoardConnect receives further funding support

On Thursday 4th June, approximately 100 people attended an event to mark the conclusion of the pilot BoardConnect program. Gathered on the newly refurbished stage of the Concert Hall at QPAC, the participants heard Premier and Arts Minister Anna Bligh announce continued funding for a groundbreaking program that gives advice and support to arts and cultural boards.

BoardConnect will receive support over the next two years to continue working with Queensland's arts organisations in order to strengthen their governance by providing professional development and support services.

In a media release, Premier Bligh said:

"BoardConnect is the first service in Australia to offer continuous governance support specifically to arts and cultural organisations."

"Good governance and board development are key success factors for building resilience and it is vital our arts organisations have the right tools to help them achieve this.

"These tools can also help a board meet and master the unique challenges that are part of being on an arts board."

During its initial 2008-09 pilot program BoardConnect connected with more than 85 percent of Queensland's arts organisations across the state.

"They worked with metropolitan and regional companies, both large and small, and provided induction sessions for new board members, special sessions for executive staff, a confidential self-help line, a free program of workshops, seminars and discussion forums, an online board self evaluation survey and brokered pro bono advice on behalf of arts companies," Ms Bligh said.

Ms Bligh presented governance commendations to Gavan Ranger, Chair, artisan; Janelle Christofis, Chair, Ausdance Queensland; and Theodora Le Souquet, Chair, Queensland Writers Centre.

"The extended support for BoardConnect, an initiative of consulting firm, Positive Solutions, will enable them to continue their program, assisting boards to develop funding partnerships and grow pro bono support for legal services."

The event featured Professor Peter Shergold CEO, of the Centre for Social Impact at the University of New South Wales, who talked about challenges and innovation in the not-for-profit sector.

Following development of a new series of public programs and support services, BoardConnect will recommence from August 2009.