



Image by Anton Blume

## Strengthening the governance of Australia's premier regional arts body

### > THE CONTEXT

Regional Arts Australia (RAA) is the peak body for supporting and advocating for the arts throughout regional Australia. It also provides a mechanism for sharing knowledge and ideas between the State Regional Arts Bodies. The Board comprised the Chair and Executive Officer of the State Regional bodies – but this led to a large board, and to some potential conflicts of interest. As the role of RAA had gained in importance it became more pressing to ensure that the governance arrangements were refined, and to consider any other improvements that could be made in the operations of the board.

### > THE BRIEF

Positive Solutions was engaged to advise on future governance arrangements, including board composition, and other matters related to the structure of the organisation and performance of the board. Following development of options for RAA, we were engaged to advise on the implementation process for a preferred option..

### > OUR APPROACH

We initiated the project with a teleconference with the Executive Group, and followed this with a review of the RAA Constitution, board papers and other relevant material. We interviewed all board members, and compared the arrangements for RAA with those for other similar federated bodies.

After preparation of a findings and options paper we facilitated discussion of this with the RAA Board. We advised on a preferred governance structure, and a route map for its realisation.

### > THE RESULTS

Our recommendations on reducing the size of the board were adopted, as were each of our 14 recommendations on board process improvements – which focused on strategic planning, risk assessment, policy development, board duty statements, and board papers and information. We provided a short transition plan to guide the next steps for RAA.