



PREMIER OF TASMANIA

2 July 2026

Mr Vica Bayley MP
Greens Member for Clark
Email: vica.bayley@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Mr Bayley

On June 16th you asked the following question

Shirley, a dancer and stalwart volunteer for the Mature Artist Dance Experience (MADE). MADE is an inspirational team of over 50 women selling out shows with contemporary dance performances developed in collaboration with some of Australia's leading choreographers, including Graeme Murphy and recently Darrell Braidwood. Shirley highlights a federal inquiry into the arts found a myriad of benefits from arts including improved social connection, physical and mental health and then wellbeing, and Shirley knows MADE delivers these benefits too. She says that without secure funding, these benefits are at risk and relying on volunteers and donations is not sustainable or tenable. The question is: how will you ensure community-based arts organisations are adequately supported so the benefits they deliver are realised?

I acknowledge the important contribution MADE makes to Tasmania's cultural life. As you have noted, organisations like MADE deliver significant benefits to participants and communities, including improved social connection, physical and mental health, and overall wellbeing. MADE is a valued part of our arts sector, with a strong track record of engaging older Tasmanians in creative participation and presenting work locally, nationally and internationally.

The Tasmanian Government supports community-based arts organisations through Arts Tasmania's suite of competitive, peer-assessed grant programs and industry initiatives. These programs provide a range of support, including multi-year and annual operational funding for established organisations, project funding for specific activities, and targeted initiatives aligned to key priorities such as community arts and cultural development.

Applications are assessed by independent peers in accordance with the *Cultural and Creative Industries Act 2017*. Funding recommendations are based on merit against published criteria, with peers also considering the balance of support across artforms, regions and communities to maintain a diverse statewide arts ecology.

Recent funding rounds have been highly competitive, and not all strong applications can be supported in any given round. MADE itself has a long history of accessing Arts Tasmania funding, receiving more than \$400,000 in support over the past five years through a combination of competitive grants and other assistance.

Looking ahead, the Government's \$10 million uplift to arts funding, commencing in 2027–28, is expected to expand opportunities for organisations over time and strengthen support across the sector.

Arts Tasmania encourages organisations, including MADE, to engage with its teams for advice on applications and feedback on outcomes, to assist them in strengthening future submissions and continuing their important work.

The Tasmanian Government recognises the profound value of community-based arts organisations and remains committed to supporting a vibrant, inclusive and sustainable arts sector for all Tasmanians.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeremy Rockliff', written in a cursive style.

Jeremy Rockliff MP
Premier