

Monday 22 August

To whom it may concern,

I would like to take this opportunity to support the Australian Theatre for Young People both in their National Cultural Plan submission and the key recommendations they have developed.

One of the reasons for my support is that I spent over thirty years nurturing an Australian Cultural scene (both at the Elizabethan Theatre Trust and later in my own company Performing Lines).

I was supported by the Australian Council for the Arts and encouraged to work across many art forms...Aboriginal, Circus, Dance, contemporary Opera, Theatre, Puppetry and Multi-Cultural work.

We were able to not only tour these companies nationally but internationally. Often giving artists and playwrights their first opportunity to show how innovative and special their work was.

However close to my heart is the ATYP as I was one of the performers who set the company up over 50 years ago. The reason we set it up was we had children of our own and were disappointed in the theatrical productions that were available for them. So I have watched the ATYP for a long time and am amazed at the wonderful job they do for hundreds of young people...not all want to be performers but many need confidence, the ability to express their emotions and cope with a difficult world.

So please take notice of what they are telling you and also find the money to support young people's theatre nationally.

Best Wishes

Wendy Blacklock AM