



THE HON SIMON CREAN MP

**Minister for Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government
Minister for the Arts**

Reference: C12/1098

30 JUL 2012

Ms Jacqueline Berthume
Arts Communication
Bridge Arts Project
PO Box 574
MOAMA NSW 2731

Dear Ms Berthume

Thank you for your email of 16 May 2012, regarding the progress and aspirations of the Bridge Arts Project proposed on traditional Yorta Yorta territory in the Murray Goulburn region.

I am delighted to learn of this positive work being undertaken by the Bridge Arts Project Committee as well as the commitment by the many supporters, including aboriginal artists and educators, the local arts community and national cultural experts.

Regional Development Australia (RDA) committees throughout Australia play a crucial role in building partnerships and ensuring that governments and stakeholders are responsive to locally identified priorities and needs. RDA committees are responsible for identifying local community priorities through their RDA Regional Plans.

I have asked that my Department arrange for a representative from the RDA Murray committee to meet with you to outline the process for applying for funding under the Regional Development Australia Fund (RDAF) program. RDAF funds projects which are predominantly capital in nature, such as new infrastructure and upgrades to existing infrastructure. To be considered, the project must be important to regional and local communities, align with Australian Government priorities and meet the requirements of the program.

The RDA Murray committee contact is Executive Officer, Ms Barbara Hull. Ms Hull is contactable on (02) 6058 0600 or via email at: barbara.hull@rdamurray.org.au. I encourage you to maintain a relationship with RDA Murray, and with RDA Loddon Mallee as applicable, so that you may be in a position to discuss any future financial or development opportunities as they arise.

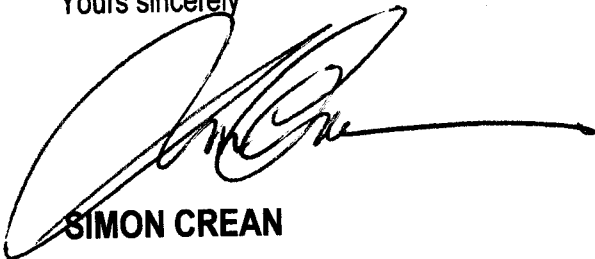
Further information on RDAF is available on my Department's website at www.regional.gov.au.

The Australian Government also provides funding for a number of other smaller programs which may be applicable to elements of your broader project. These include Indigenous Cultural Support (ICS), also administered by my Department, as well as the Regional Arts Fund (NSW). ICS projects are selected through an annual funding round with the next round likely to be advertised in November 2012 (for funding in 2013-14). I encourage you to read the guidelines available at <http://www.arts.gov.au/indigenous/ics> and <http://www.regionalartsnsw.com.au/grants/raf.html>.

I wish the Bridge Arts Project Committee well in this endeavour.

Thank you for raising this matter with me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Simon Crean', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

SIMON CREAN



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 PARLIAMENT HOUSE CANBERRA ACT 2600

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