

Labor to support world-class ANU School of Music

A re-elected ACT Labor government will make a significant contribution towards running a world-class advanced music program at the ANU School of Music. Canberrans are rightly proud of this fine school with its excellent reputation. If we want our city to continue to develop elite performers to a global standard, ANU has made it clear they need community support.

ACT Labor welcomes the University's commitment today to continue offering music degrees and research through the school, but we understand the additional cost of a conservatorium-style advanced program to train the next generation of elite professional performers requires external support and cooperation between ANU, government, community and wider sponsors.

ACT Labor will fund the first \$250,000 each year for four years towards the advanced music program. We will also do all we can to help them raise money from philanthropists and corporate donors, with the Chief Minister and Arts Minister joining the University's vice-chancellor as leading music school 'champions' to help raise the necessary funds.

We need to keep musically talented and dedicated Canberrans working here, as well as attracting some of the world's best musicians. We will do this by demonstrating that the ACT Labor Government, and the Canberra community, value and support the arts – and that musicians and world-class music students can pursue their training and careers here.

The ACT Government will also continue to work with the School of Music on its highly-regarded outreach programs that promote a love and understanding of music to Canberra school students.

The ANU School of Music is an institution with a rich and proud history. The first purpose-built music school in Australia, it has played a leading role in the region's cultural and musical arts scene for almost 50 years. It is an institution Canberrans love and together we can make it even better.

Support from multiple areas – Government funding, private business sponsorship and philanthropic donation – will be vital to the long-term strength of the ANU School of Music's advanced music program. ACT Labor will support this.

Canberra has shown time and time again that we are at our best when we all work together to achieve our aims. When it comes to reinvigorating the ANU School of Music, the ACT Labor Government is happy to champion its fine work to the wider community to achieve this goal.

ACT Labor is the party that supports the Canberra arts sector. A strong and vibrant local arts sector is a vital component of Canberra's cultural life, economy and identity as a cool little capital.

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