



**National Institute
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STATEMENT FROM NIDA'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of NIDA completely rejects the attack on the Institute by Chris Puplick in his paper *Changing Times at NIDA* to be published by Currency House.

Mr Puplick is an apparently disaffected former Board member. His paper is a biased essay, the foundations being riddled with errors compounded by the selective use of source material.

Mr Puplick's three years (2007-2010) on the NIDA Board were marked by conflict with the overwhelming majority of members over many issues, including future directions for NIDA and appropriate levels of involvement for a Board member in the day-to-day operations of the Institute.

At a time when NIDA was dealing with the challenge of forging a new path following the retirement of two of its longstanding senior managers, Mr Puplick consistently took a backward-looking stance challenging management decisions.

In his paper, Mr Puplick completely discounts the recent achievements of NIDA, its staff and students. Almost no positive word can be found.

The Board is proud of what has been achieved over the past five years at NIDA. In a time of unprecedented change in the performance and entertainment industries, NIDA has seen increasing numbers of talented young Australians seeking a place in its full-time programs, has expanded the range of courses offered to students, has built new links with the professional industry, and, most importantly, has seen its recent graduates succeed both locally and internationally in stage and screen productions.

These achievements have been brought about under the visionary leadership and steady management of NIDA's Director/CEO Lynne Williams. Her extensive industry and educational experience has enabled the creation of a coherent developmental strategy for NIDA which balances traditional skills with new demands in the training of students. She has the Board's complete support.

The Board is also grateful for the contribution of the talented and dedicated staff of NIDA and the support of industry and academic colleagues in the recent evolution of this iconic Australian cultural institution.

**Malcolm Long,
Chairman**



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