

From: Lisa French

To: discussion@afc.gov.au

Date: Friday - November 14, 2003 1:49 PM

Subject: Re: AFC/Screensound Review of programs

To Whom It May Concern

I am writing in response to the discussion paper 'AFC Screensound Australia Integration: Review of Programs, Stage One International Discussion Paper' (response deadline extended until 17/11/03).

I regard myself as an external stakeholder as I have had a great deal of interaction with Screensound in my current role as a cinema studies lecturer (renting scores of 16mm & 35mm prints, purchasing video material, attending Screensound events) and in the past I have dealt with Screensound in numerous capacities (e.g. in my role as Director of St Kilda Film Festival and as an AFI Board member).

I would like to applaud the emphasis in opening the Archive to research and the emphasis on scholarship. However, consultation appears to me to have been selective and limited; further papers should be more widely distributed. For example, it seems strange that the education sector has not been consulted in regard to the integration and while I appreciate that

there is a group called 'The Archive Forum', the sector broadly has not been consulted. I also feel that the cultural sector, represented only by ACMI and Film Australia in your 'List of Consultations', is a narrow representation in regard to stakeholders (especially given the review aims to provide opportunities for new screen culture and education initiatives). The failure to consult with the education sector is doubly odd given the statements in the paper in regard to a "commitment to scholarship" and the fact the paper notes that that curators gained their skills "through academic studies"- pointing to the importance of relationships with the tertiary sector.

I do not regard Screensound as an "exploiter" in providing video/DCV,CD material from the collection for purchase. This is important for research and teaching purposes and also, for audience development. I believe Screensound should continue to produce material as it has done previously and maintain public program activities.

Matters found in the discussion paper that I would support include a name change back to the previous nomenclature, a move to collect all, rather than selected, national content; the development of filmography and audiography databases and, the employment of Indigenous staff.

I would like to wish you every success with this process.

Yours sincerely  
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