

JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

Senator the Hon Richard Alston
Minister for Communications,
Information
Technology and the Arts

Senator the Hon Rod Kemp
Minister for the Arts and Sport

New arrangements for the Australian Film Commission and ScreenSound Australia

The Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts, Senator Richard Alston, and the Minister for the Arts and Sport, Senator Rod Kemp, announced today that ScreenSound Australia and the Australian Film Commission (AFC) will be integrated from 1 July 2003.

The AFC is the Commonwealth's primary agency for supporting the development of film, television and interactive media projects and their creators. One of the AFC's key objectives is to support activities and events that provide the wider Australian community, including regional Australia, with access to Australian audiovisual product.

ScreenSound Australia-The National Screen and Sound Archive is responsible for preserving, documenting and interpreting the Australian experience in audiovisual media.

The influence of audiovisual content on our culture is immense and growing. The synergies created by combining the resources of the AFC and ScreenSound Australia will improve their current educational and exhibition activities. It will also provide national leadership in enhancing access to, and understanding of, audiovisual culture.

Legislation will be introduced to facilitate the integration and, for the first time, give clear recognition in Commonwealth statute to the important work of collecting and preserving the nation's sound and visual heritage.

Combining ScreenSound Australia's extensive collection in both sound and screen material with the AFC's ability to support national exhibition programmes will enable the development of a national strategy for the delivery of audiovisual cultural activities, ensuring that more Australians than ever are able to enjoy and learn from ScreenSound's unique resource.

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