



Ray Williams MP

Member for Castle Hill
Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier
for Western Sydney

MEDIA RELEASE

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LOCAL ARTIST RECEIVES PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDING

A Blacktown artist will partake in an extraordinary creative experience after receiving funding from a NSW Government program, Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier for Western Sydney Ray Williams announced today.

Mr Williams said Dr Iqbal Barkat has been granted \$5,000 through the NSW Government Artist Support Program, which supports artists' professional development, helps them expand their skills, reach new audiences and engage with new technologies.

"Dr Barkat has been given \$5,000 to work with the prestigious Hong Kong New Music Ensemble for a preliminary research and networking visit to precede creative development of a new collaborative work," Mr Williams said.

"The NSW Liberals & Nationals Government is proud to support artists to develop creativity, excellence, diversity and innovation."

Deputy Premier and Minister for the Arts Troy Grant said the NSW Government is committed to supporting professional development of artists to grow a thriving globally connected arts and cultural sector.

"The Artist Support Program helps boost the profile of NSW as a global leader in the arts and recipients will help contribute as cultural ambassadors on the world stage," Mr Grant said.

Providing career opportunities is a key priority of the State Government's *Create in NSW* framework, which guides strategy, investment and partnerships to grow a thriving, globally connected arts and cultural sector.

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