

Submission  
No 110

## INQUIRY INTO ARTS AND MUSIC EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN NEW SOUTH WALES

**Organisation:** Turner Theatre, Short and Sweet and Come You Spirits

**Date Received:** 1 August 2024

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# Submission to the Joint Select Committee on Arts and Music Education and Training in New South Wales

## Executive Summary

Short+Sweet Deadly proposes a comprehensive First Nations arts initiative designed to nurture talent, preserve cultural heritage and create a sustainable platform for First Nations voices in the Australian arts scene.

This multifaceted program spans various age groups and artistic disciplines, focusing on short-form storytelling and performance. With the addition of 5-minute and 10-minute playmaking to the curriculum, the program will empower First Nations students to tell their own stories and share them on stage with their family, school and community.

The initiative aims to establish and develop a regular season of First Nations work (S+S Deadly) as part of the annual Short+Sweet Festival at Turner Theatre (TAFE NSW Ultimo Campus) commencing March 2025, simultaneously creating a pipeline for professional development and performance opportunities.

## Key Components (Enquiry Points a.i, a.ii, a.iv, a.vi, b.v, b.vi):

- **Primary Level (8-12 years):** Introduction to storytelling, character development, dialogue creation, and basic artistic skills through a First Nations 5 Minute Playwriting Program.
- **Secondary Level (13-17 years):** More advanced play making, writing and stagecraft through a First Nations 10 Minute Playwriting Program.
- **Tertiary Level:** Working with TAFE NSW to create a series of Beginner to professional-level training in various artistic disciplines.
- **Short+Sweet Deadly Masterclass program:** An extension of Short+Sweet's free program since it was established in 2002, providing education and professional development for emerging and established artists.
- **Professional Development:** Creating a pathway from student to professional artist through various initiatives, including internships, work experience, and touring programs.
- **Community Engagement:** Collaborating with First Nations Elders, cultural advisors, and organizations to ensure cultural authenticity and community involvement.
- **International Expansion:** Developing opportunities for showcasing First Nations works globally through Short+Sweet festivals and international tours.

This program not only aims to nurture talent and preserve cultural heritage but also to create a sustainable platform for First Nations voices in the Australian arts scene, with the ultimate goal of establishing a permanent First Nations Theatre Company by 2030.

### **Educational Benefits:**

- Supports advanced literacy, critical thinking, and analytical skills.
- Aligns with English, Drama, and Media Arts curricula, enhancing student engagement and learning outcomes.

### **Relevance to Enquiry:**

- Addresses the quality and effectiveness of arts education by introducing innovative teaching methods and content (a.i, a.ii).
- Demonstrates the role of arts organisations in developing creative skills and supporting educational objectives (a.iv, a.vi).
- Ensures an inclusive approach to resource allocation for regional schools across New South Wales (b.v, b.vi).

### **Performance Opportunities (Enquiry Points a.iv, a.v, a.vii, b.v):**

- **Local, Regional, and Statewide Corroboree Events:** Regular performances showcasing student works from School, District, and “Country” levels with a Grand Final Corroboree held annually at Turner Theatre (TAFE NSW Ultimo Campus).
- **Annual “S+S Deadly” Festival at Turner Theatre:** Featuring new works of music and dance, expanding from 1 to 2 weeks by 2026.
- **“Shorter+Sweeter Deadly” National Tour of Professional Productions in 2027:** Touring NSW and Australia showcasing First Nations works.
- **First Nation created films:** Opportunities for First Nation filmmakers at all levels (primary, secondary, tertiary, and professional) to participate in Short+Sweet film festivals in Australia and overseas.

### **Educational Benefits:**

- Enhances practical skills and industry knowledge.
- Provides real-world applications of classroom learning.

### **Relevance to Enquiry:**

- Demonstrates the efficacy of integrating work-integrated learning opportunities into the curriculum (a.v).
- Ensures inclusive resource allocation for regional schools (a.vii).
- Coordinates with the education system to support the development of creative skills (a.viii).

### **Cultural Preservation and Expression (Enquiry Points a.iv, a.vi, b.vi, b.viii):**

- **Integration of First Nations Storytelling Traditions and Languages:** Use of performance arts to record and preserve endangered Aboriginal languages.
- **Intergenerational Knowledge Transfer:** Ensuring that cultural heritage is passed down through artistic expression.

### **Relevance to Enquiry:**

- Highlights the role of arts organisations in fostering community engagement and cultural diversity (a.iv).
- Ensures inclusive arts education that respects and integrates First Nations perspectives (a.vi, b.vi, b.viii).

### **Community Engagement (Enquiry Points a.iv, a.vi, a.viii):**

- **Collaboration with Elders and Cultural Advisors:** Ensuring authenticity and cultural integrity.
- **Regular Performances and Community Events:** Celebrating achievements and fostering understanding between different First Nations communities.

### **Relevance to Enquiry:**

- Demonstrates the role of arts organisations in fostering community engagement and cultural diversity (a.iv).
- Ensures inclusive arts education that respects and integrates First Nations perspectives (a.vi, a.viii).

### **Long-term Vision (Enquiry Points a.i, a.vii, a.ix, b.ix):**

- **Pipeline of Talent for S+S Deadly and Broader Australian Theatre:** Ensuring continuous development and showcasing of First Nations work.
- **Turner Theatre Commitment:** First Nations led programming from 10% in 2026 to 30% by 2030, developing First Nations crew, artists, and creatives to support that goal.
- **Creation of a Sustainable First Nations Arts Ecosystem:** Establishing a permanent First Nations Theatre Company at Turner Theatre by 2030.
- **International Recognition for First Nations Australian Storytelling:** Promoting Australian First Nations culture globally using the Short+Sweet International networks.
- **Use of Arts as a Tool for Reconciliation and Cultural Diplomacy:** Enhancing mutual understanding and respect.
- **First Nation created films showcased in Hollywood:** Part of the Short+Sweet Hollywood Film program by 2027.

## Relevance to Enquiry:

- Supports the long-term goal of quality arts education (a.i).
- Ensures inclusive approach to resource allocation for regional schools (a.vii).
- Provides students with opportunities to learn entrepreneurial skills and gain industry experience to ensure they are job-ready (a.ix, b.ix).

## Implementation Strategy

- **Pilot Programs in Select Schools and Communities:**
  - Initial rollout of educational programs in Primary, Secondary, and TAFE NSW campuses.
  - Partnerships with educational institutions and existing First Nation arts organizations.
  - Ongoing community consultation and program evaluation.
  - S+S Deadly program in 2025.
  - Existing First Nation films included in S+S Film programming in Australia.

## Benefits

- **Enhanced Educational Outcomes for First Nations Students:**
  - Fostering creative potential and storytelling abilities.
  - Strengthening cultural identity and pride.
- **Preservation and Celebration of First Nations Culture:**
  - Using arts to record and preserve Aboriginal languages and traditions.
- **Creation of Career Pathways in the Arts for First Nations Youth:**
  - Providing professional development and performance opportunities.
  - Utilizing existing Short+Sweet festivals and networks.
- **Enrichment of Australia's Cultural Landscape:**
  - Promoting First Nations voices and stories nationally and internationally.

# Detailed Submission

## Introduction

Short+Sweet aims to establish a regular season of First Nations work as part of S+S Deadly at Turner Hall, starting in March 2025. S+S Deadly will be established as an independent First Nations led organisation. Teaching primary and secondary students about playwriting and playmaking is crucial to achieving this goal. These educational programs will cultivate a new generation of First Nations storytellers, ensuring a continuous pipeline of fresh, culturally rich content for the stage.

## Objectives

1. **Cultivate First Nations Talent:**
  - By introducing playwriting and playmaking to Primary and Secondary students, we nurture their creative potential and storytelling abilities, laying the foundation for future contributions to S+S Deadly and the performing arts industry more broadly.
2. **Preserve and Celebrate Culture:**
  - Integrating First Nations storytelling traditions into the curriculum helps preserve cultural heritage and instill pride in young First Nations Australians.
3. **Foster Community Engagement:**
  - Engaging students, families, and communities in the creative process builds strong support networks and promotes cultural exchange.
4. **Corroboree:**
  - A series of special events “Corroborees” to showcase and celebrate student work.
  - This platform for students to perform their plays will foster a sense of achievement and community involvement.
  - Engaging students, families, and communities in the creative process builds strong support networks and promotes cultural exchange.

## Program Benefits

1. **Educational Enhancement:**
  - **Primary Students (8-11 years):** Through engaging lessons on character development, dialogue creation, and story structure, young students learn to express their cultural narratives creatively. This early exposure fosters a lifelong appreciation for the arts and storytelling. The 5 minute stories they

create will be showcased at Corroboree events.

- **Secondary Students (13-17 years):** More advanced techniques in scriptwriting, performance, and stagecraft prepare students for potential careers in theatre. This education empowers them to create sophisticated works that can be showcased in Corroboree events.
- **Filmmaking Opportunities:** Encouraging First Nations students at all levels to participate in Short+Sweet film festivals in Australia and overseas, providing a platform for their stories to reach broader audiences.

## 2. Cultural Preservation and Expression:

- **First Nations Storytelling:** Programs incorporate traditional storytelling techniques, ensuring that students' plays reflect their cultural heritage and contemporary experiences.
- **Language and Identity:** Encouraging the use of First Nations languages and cultural expressions in their work helps students strengthen their cultural identity and pride.

## 3. Community Involvement and Support:

- **Collaboration with Elders:** Involving community Elders and cultural advisors in the educational process ensures cultural authenticity and provides students with valuable mentorship.
- **Corroboree:** Regular performances and community events foster a sense of achievement and celebration, bringing together students, families, and community members.

## Long-term Impact

### 1. Pipeline of Talent:

- Continuous playwriting and playmaking education create a steady flow of new First Nations works, ready to be showcased at S+S Deadly and beyond.

### 2. Professional Development:

- Graduates of these programs are well-prepared to pursue careers in theatre, film, television, contributing to the broader Australian arts landscape.

### 3. Global Reach:

- Successful First Nations works from S+S Deadly can tour nationally and internationally, promoting Australian First Nations culture on a global stage.



## Relevance to NSW Parliamentary Inquiry on Arts and Music Education

1. **Quality and Effectiveness of Arts and Music Education:**
  - S+S Deadly’s educational programs significantly contribute to formal arts education at primary, secondary, and tertiary levels, supporting the long-term goal of quality arts education (point a.i).
2. **Role of Arts Organizations in Education:**
  - S+S Deadly exemplifies the role of arts organizations in education by developing creative skills and cultural awareness (point a.iv).
3. **Curriculum Efficacy:**
  - The Corroboree Program and the S+S Deadly Festival enhance the primary and secondary school curriculum in delivering learning outcomes in arts-related subjects (point a.vi).
4. **Support for Teachers:**
  - S+S Deadly provides resources and support for teachers in delivering quality arts education, ensuring an inclusive approach to resource allocation for regional schools (points a.vii and b.vi).
5. **Coordination Between Creative Industries and Education:**
  - S+S Deadly demonstrates an effective approach for the arts and creative industries to coordinate with the education system to support the development of creative skills (point a.viii).
6. **Entrepreneurial Skills and Industry Experience:**
  - The S+S Deadly Festival and associated educational programs provide opportunities for students to gain industry experience and develop entrepreneurial skills (points a.ix and b.viii).
7. **Factors Influencing Further Arts Education:**
  - S+S Deadly’s programs influence student decisions to pursue further arts education by showcasing opportunities in the performing arts (points a.xi and b.x).
8. **Regional Inclusivity:**
  - The expansion of S+S Deadly’s programs to regional schools ensures an inclusive approach to arts education (points a.vii and b.vi).
9. **Measures of Success:**
  - The success of S+S Deadly’s programs provides valuable data on measures of success in arts education (points a.x and b.ix).
10. **International Perspective:**
  - Short+Sweet’s international presence provides insights into global best practices in arts education, contributing to a broader understanding of effective arts education models (point a.xii).

## **Support from Government**

**(Enquiry Points a.iii, a.iv, a.v, a.vi, a.vii, a.viii, a.ix, a.x):**

### **1. Engagement and Dialogue:**

- Facilitate ongoing conversations with appropriate government departments and stakeholders to align objectives and resources (a.iii, a.v, a.vi, a.vii, a.viii).

### **2. Funding and Resources:**

- Initial financial support for the development and implementation of performances, workshops, and educational programs (a.v, a.vi, a.vii).

### **3. Policy and Curriculum Integration:**

- Support the inclusion of these innovative programs in the formal education curriculum (a.vi, a.vii, a.viii).
- Ensure policies that encourage and facilitate partnerships between educational institutions and arts organizations (a.iv, a.viii).

### **4. Professional Development and Training:**

- Support professional development programs for teachers to equip them with skills to teach Indigenous arts using modern methods (a.iii, a.iv, a.vi).
- Support workshops and training sessions for educators and students (a.viii).

### **5. Infrastructure and Facilities:**

- Provide access to existing facilities and technological infrastructure to enhance performances, workshops, and other programs (a.v, a.vi).
- Ensure regional and remote schools have access to similar high-quality experiences as those in urban areas (a.vii, a.viii).

## **Conclusion**

S+S Deadly is an essential component of Short+Sweet’s overall mission to nurture talent, preserve cultural heritage, and engage diverse communities through the arts. By investing in playwriting and playmaking education for primary, secondary, and tertiary students, S+S Deadly ensures the sustainability and growth of First Nations storytelling in the performing arts. This initiative supports the ambition of creating a regular season of First Nations work at Turner Hall, enriches Australia’s cultural heritage, and promotes First Nations voices worldwide. The integration of these programs with the NSW education system will significantly contribute to the state’s goals of providing quality and inclusive arts education.

This submission highlights the vital role S+S Deadly can play in advancing arts and music education, aligning with the objectives of the NSW Parliamentary Inquiry, and fostering a vibrant, diverse, and dynamic cultural community in New South Wales.

## **Summary of Points of Relevance to the Enquiry**

- **Key Activities and Programs:** a.i, a.ii, a.iv, a.v, a.vi, a.vii, a.viii, a.ix, a.x, b.v, b.vi, b.viii

- **Innovative Education Programs:** a.i, a.ii, a.iv, a.vi, b.v, b.vi
- **Work-Integrated Learning:** a.v, a.vii, a.viii
- **Cultural Preservation and Expression:** a.iv, a.vi, b.vi, b.viii
- **Community Engagement:** a.iv, a.vi, a.viii
- **Entrepreneurial Skills and Industry Experience:** a.ix, b.viii
- **Support Needed from Government:** a.iii, a.iv, a.v, a.vi, a.vii, a.viii, a.ix, a.x
- **Professional Development:** a.iii, a.iv, a.vi
- **5-Year Timeline for Education and Performance Aspects:** a.i, a.ii, a.iv, a.v, a.vi, a.vii, a.viii, a.ix, b.vi, b.viii

#### **Additional Documents:**

- 1) 5 Year Plan
- 2) My First Story Software Initiative (supporting S+S Deadly)
- 3) Corroboree Program
- 4) Primary + Secondary Curriculum overview
- 5) Links

NB: There are detailed curriculum documents available that include Lesson Plans, Teachers Notes, Lessons for students, etc.

## 5-Year Timeline for Education and Performance Aspects of S+S Deadly Program

Enquiry Points a.i, a.ii, a.iv, a.v, a.vi, a.vii, a.viii, a.ix, b.vi, b.viii

### Year 1: Establishing Foundations

- **Educational Programs:**
  - **Primary Schools:** Launch pilot programs for the First Nations 5 Minute Playwriting Program in select primary schools across NSW.
  - **Secondary Schools:** Introduce advanced playwriting and stagecraft courses in a few secondary schools.
  - **Tertiary Institutions:** Partner with TAFE NSW to provide professional-level training in artistic disciplines.
- **Performance Opportunities:**
  - **Local Corroboree Events:** Host district-level Corroboree events showcasing student works from the pilot programs.
  - **Annual Festival:** Organize the first annual “S+S Deadly” festival at Turner Theatre, featuring works from primary and secondary students.
  - **S+S Shakespeare Program:** A partnership between Come you Spirits, S+S, and Turner Theatre offers performance opportunities for First Nation artists in all shows and performances.
- **Community Engagement:**
  - **Collaborate** with First Nations Elders and cultural advisors to ensure cultural authenticity.
  - **Conduct workshops** and community events to build support and awareness.
- **Internships and Work Experience:**
  - Short+Sweet, Turner Theatre, and Come you Spirits offer internships, work experience, and other work-integrated learning opportunities for High School and TAFE students for every show and project.

## Year 2: Expanding Reach and Engagement

- **Educational Programs:**
  - Primary Schools: Expand the First Nations 5 Minute Playwriting Program to additional primary schools.
  - Secondary Schools: Broaden the reach of advanced courses to more secondary schools.
  - Teacher Training: Provide professional development workshops for teachers to enhance culturally responsive teaching practices.
- **Performance Opportunities:**
  - Regional Corroboree Events: Introduce regional-level Corroboree events to increase participation and visibility.
  - Annual Festival: Continue the “S+S Deadly” festival, incorporating new works and expanding to include dance and music performances.
  - S+S Shakespeare Program: Will expand performance opportunities each year.
- **Community Engagement:**
  - Increase involvement of community members and Elders in the program.
  - Strengthen partnerships with local First Nations organizations.

## Year 3: National Recognition and Professional Opportunities

- **Educational Programs:**
  - **Primary Schools:** Aim for the First Nations 5 Minute Playwriting Program to be available in 50% of primary schools across NSW.
  - **Secondary Schools:** Integrate playwriting and stagecraft courses into the curriculum of more secondary schools.
  - **Tertiary Institutions:** Launch the first cohort of students graduating from TAFE NSW’s professional-level training in the arts.
- **Performance Opportunities:**
  - **State-Level Corroboree:** Host the first state-level Corroboree event, showcasing the best works from district and regional events.
  - **Annual Festival:** Expand the “S+S Deadly” festival to a two-week event, including theatre, dance, and music.
  - **Shorter+Sweeter Tour:** Launch the first Shorter+Sweeter professional touring program using Federal Government touring funds. Offers free masterclass programs across all touring activities.
- **Community Engagement:**
  - Enhance community outreach and engagement strategies.
  - Foster stronger connections between students and their cultural heritage.

## Year 4: International Expansion and Enhanced Professional Development

- **Educational Programs:**
  - **Primary Schools:** Achieve participation of the First Nations 5 Minute Playwriting Program in 75% of primary schools across NSW.
  - **Secondary Schools:** Offer specialized courses in filmmaking, digital storytelling, and advanced performance techniques.
  - **Teacher Support:** Implement ongoing professional development and support for teachers involved in the program.
- **Performance Opportunities:**
  - **Corroboree Events:** Increase the frequency and scale of Corroboree events, including international collaborations.
  - **Annual Festival:** Extend the “S+S Deadly” festival to a three-week event, incorporating film screenings of short films created by students.
  - **Shorter+Sweeter Micro Tour:** Expand the professional touring program to include a smaller format (4 actors) touring First Nation communities across Australia. Offers free masterclass programs across all touring activities.
- **Community Engagement:**
  - **Enhance** collaboration with First Nations cultural institutions and international First Nations communities.
  - **Promote** the Corroboree events to broader audiences, including First Nation attendees from other states.

## Year 5: Comprehensive Integration and Sustainability

- **Educational Programs:**
  - **Primary and Secondary Schools:** Achieve full integration of the First Nations 5 Minute Playwriting Program in all primary and secondary schools across NSW.
  - **Tertiary Institutions:** Graduate the second cohort from TAFE NSW’s professional training programs, ensuring a pipeline of skilled First Nations participants.
- **Performance Opportunities:**
  - **National Corroboree:** Host a Grand Final Corroboree event featuring the best works from across NSW and invited interstate participants.
  - **Annual Festival:** Continue expanding the “S+S Deadly” festival, showcasing the best works from the Corroboree program on professional stages.
  - **Professional Development Pipeline:** From student to emerging artist to professional using the ‘Deadly’ suite of activities from Corroboree to S+S Deadly, Shorter+Sweeter, S+S Micro to the First Nations Theatre Company.
  - **International Showcasing:** Feature the best short films from the program in Short+Sweet festivals internationally.

- **Professional Development:**
  - **Shorter+Sweeter and S+S Micro Tours:** Establish the professional touring program as an annual event, with tours to First Nations communities and other locations.
  - **First Nations film program:** Accompany Shorter+Sweeter Touring Programs around NSW, Australia, and International.
  - **New First Nations Theatre Company:** Establish a new First Nations Theatre company based at Turner Theatre on the TAFE Ultimo campus by 2030.
  - **Shorter+Sweeter International:** Develop opportunities to take the very best First Nations work to selected international locations.

## Conclusion

The five-year plan for the S+S Deadly program aims to establish a robust and sustainable platform for First Nations storytelling through comprehensive educational programs, extensive performance opportunities, and strong community engagement. By year five, the program will not only be integrated across all primary and secondary schools in NSW but will also have created significant professional and cultural opportunities for First Nations students and communities, thereby enriching Australia’s cultural landscape and promoting First Nations voices globally.

## Summary of Points of Relevance to the Enquiry

- **5-Year Timeline for Education and Performance Aspects:** a.i, a.ii, a.iv, a.v, a.vi, a.vii, a.viii, a.ix, b.vi, b.viii

## S+S First Nations submission Appendix 2

### **New Initiative: Purpose-built LLM for First Nations Storytelling**

A groundbreaking addition to the S+S Deadly Program is the development of a purpose-built Language Learning Model (LLM) by a Sydney-based company that is being designed to assist First Nation children in creating stories and recording existing ones in original languages (where possible and appropriate). This AI tool (My First Story) is envisioned to play a crucial role in preserving and revitalizing First Nations languages by:

- **Creating New Stories:** Helping children generate new stories using their native languages, thus fostering creativity and linguistic skills.
- **Recording Existing Stories:** Working with communities and Elders to digitally archive traditional stories, ensuring they are preserved for future generations.
- **Language Preservation:** Collecting and maintaining a repository of First Nations languages, supporting efforts to keep these languages alive and vibrant.
- **Long-term Value:** Enhancing the tool's capabilities over time to better support the First Nations community, making it an invaluable resource for cultural preservation.
- **Work on this application commenced in June 2024 and is expected to have a pilot 'model' by February 2025.**



## S+S First Nations submission

### Appendix 3

# Overview of the Corroboree Program for First Nations Primary and Secondary Students

**Introduction** The Corroboree is an innovative and culturally significant program designed to celebrate and showcase the creative talents of First Nations students. This program, which includes both primary and secondary aged students, aims to nurture storytelling, performance skills, and cultural expression through a series of structured events and workshops.

### Program Highlights

#### 1. Celebration of Creativity and Cultural Expression:

- The Corroboree program focuses on 5-minute plays, songs, dances, and video projects created by First Nations students, offering them a platform to share their unique stories and cultural heritage.
- **Relevance to Enquiry:**
  - Enhances the quality and effectiveness of arts and creative industries education by introducing innovative methods (a.i, a.ii).
  - Demonstrates the role of arts organizations in education (a.iv).

#### 2. Festival Structure:

- The Corroboree is held at three levels: District, 'Country' (aligning with First Nations 'nations' and local language groups), and State, ensuring broad participation and recognition at multiple levels.
- Each level features performances, screenings, and cultural workshops, fostering a vibrant and inclusive atmosphere.
- **Relevance to Enquiry:**
  - Supports the development of creative skills through coordinated efforts between arts and education systems (a.viii).
  - Provides measures of success in arts education through structured events and performances (a.x).

#### 3. Cultural Workshops:

- A variety of workshops are offered to deepen students' understanding of First Nations arts, including acting techniques, storytelling through dance, creative writing, music in theatre, technical theatre design, and traditional costume and set design.
- **Relevance to Enquiry:**
  - Enhances curriculum efficacy by integrating arts-related learning outcomes (a.vi).

- Provides support for teachers in delivering quality arts education (a.vii).

#### 4. **Teacher Professional Development:**

- Alongside student activities, a parallel Professional Development Program for teachers is provided to enhance skills in teaching First Nations drama, culturally responsive pedagogy, and networking opportunities with fellow educators.
- **Relevance to Enquiry:**
  - Supports robust and evidence-based arts education in initial teacher education courses (a.iii).
  - Offers ongoing support and resources for teachers (a.vii).

### **Program Benefits**

#### 1. **For Students:**

- Public recognition and performance opportunities
- Exposure to diverse First Nations plays and peer performances
- Confidence building and constructive feedback from industry professionals
- Networking with other young First Nations creatives
- Introduction to potential career paths in First Nations theatre and film
- **Relevance to Enquiry:**
  - Encourages entrepreneurial skills and industry experience (a.ix).
  - Influences student decisions to pursue further arts education (a.xi).

#### 2. **For Teachers:**

- Showcase of student achievements
- Networking with other educators
- Inspiration for future culturally responsive classroom activities
- Professional development in First Nations arts education
- **Relevance to Enquiry:**
  - Supports professional development and resource availability (a.vii, a.iii).

#### 3. **For Schools and Communities:**

- Positive public relations and showcase of commitment to First Nations arts education
- Strengthened community engagement and support
- Enhancement of cultural profile and commitment to reconciliation
- **Relevance to Enquiry:**
  - Ensures inclusive approach to resource allocation for regional schools (a.vii).
  - Enhances community engagement and cultural understanding (a.viii).

**Conclusion** The Short+Sweet Schools Corroboree program provides a comprehensive and supportive environment for First Nations students to explore and express their cultural heritage through the arts. By integrating structured performances, workshops, and

professional development, this program fosters a deep appreciation for First Nations culture, enhances educational outcomes, and builds stronger community connections.

### **Summary of Alignment with Enquiry Points:**

- **Quality and Effectiveness of Arts Education:**
  - Innovative methods (a.i, a.ii).
  - Role of arts organizations (a.iv).
  - Curriculum efficacy (a.vi).
  - Support for teachers (a.vii).
  - Coordination with education systems (a.viii).
  - Measures of success (a.x).
- **Professional Development:**
  - Initial teacher education courses (a.iii).
  - Ongoing support for teachers (a.vii).
- **Student Engagement and Outcomes:**
  - Entrepreneurial skills and industry experience (a.ix).
  - Influencing further arts education (a.xi).
- **Community and Regional Engagement:**
  - Inclusive resource allocation (a.vii).
  - Community engagement and cultural understanding (a.viii).

### **Corroboree: The details – Primary and Secondary Students**

**Introduction** The Short+Sweet Schools Corroboree is the culmination of our 5-Minute Playwriting Program for First Nations students, celebrating the creativity, cultural expression, and hard work of students across various learning formats. This festival-style event showcases the diverse talents of young First Nations playwrights, actors, and filmmakers, offering a unique platform for students to share their work with peers, educators, Elders, and the wider community.

**Corroboree Schedule** The Corroboree will be held at three levels: District, 'Country' (aligning with First Nations 'nations' and local language groups), and State. Each level will follow a similar structure:

#### **Day 1:**

- 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM: Welcome to Country and opening ceremony
- 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM: Session 1 - Performances from Comprehensive Program participants
- 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM: Session 2 - Screenings of video projects from Specialised Program
- 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM: Cultural workshops (multiple small groups, max 12 participants each)

## **Day 2:**

- 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM: Session 3 - Performances from Condensed Program participants
- 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM: Session 4 - Performances from Intensive Program participants
- 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM: Cultural workshops (multiple small groups, max 12 participants each)
- 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM: Awards ceremony and closing celebration, including traditional performances

## **Cultural Workshops (optional, max 12 participants each):**

- Introduction to First Nations Acting Techniques
- Storytelling Through Traditional Dance
- First Nations Creative Writing for Theatre
- Traditional Music in Modern Theatre
- Technical Theatre: Incorporating First Nations Design Elements
- Traditional Costume and Set Design

## **Benefits for Students:**

1. Public recognition of their creative work and cultural expression
2. Opportunity to perform for a larger audience, including community Elders
3. Exposure to diverse First Nations plays and performances from peers
4. Networking with other young First Nations creatives
5. Confidence building through public performance of culturally significant work
6. Constructive feedback from First Nations industry professionals
7. Inspiration from watching other First Nations performances
8. Introduction to potential career paths in First Nations theatre and film

## **Benefits for Teachers:**

1. Showcase of their students' achievements in cultural storytelling
2. Networking with other educators focused on First Nations drama
3. Exposure to varied First Nations teaching methods and outcomes
4. Inspiration for future culturally responsive classroom activities
5. Opportunity to assess their program's effectiveness in cultural education
6. Professional development in First Nations arts education

## **Benefits for Schools and Communities:**

1. Positive public relations opportunity highlighting First Nations culture
2. Showcase of the school's commitment to First Nations arts education
3. Networking opportunities with other schools and First Nations arts organisations

4. Strengthened community engagement and support
5. Enhancement of the school's cultural profile and commitment to reconciliation

### **Teacher Professional Development Program**

**Introduction:** Alongside the Corroboree, we offer a parallel Professional Development Program for teachers. This program is designed to enhance teaching skills in First Nations drama education, provide new perspectives on culturally responsive pedagogy, and offer networking opportunities with fellow educators.

#### **Schedule: Day 1:**

- 3:45 PM - 4:45 PM: Workshop 1 - "First Nations Playwriting Techniques for the Classroom"
- 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM: Workshop 2 - "Directing Young First Nations Performers: Cultural Considerations"

#### **Day 2:**

- 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM: Workshop 3 - "Integrating First Nations Technologies in Drama Education"
- 3:45 PM - 4:45 PM: Workshop 4 - "Culturally Appropriate Assessment Strategies for First Nations Creative Arts"

#### **Additional Workshops (30 minutes each, offered during lunch breaks or after the main program):**

- "Inclusive Drama Practices: Ensuring All First Nations Students Can Participate"
- "Cross-Curricular Applications of First Nations Drama"
- "Building a Sustainable First Nations School Theatre Program"

#### **Benefits for Teachers Attending the Professional Development Program:**

1. Enhanced skills in teaching First Nations playwriting and directing
2. Exposure to new technologies and methodologies in First Nations drama education
3. Networking opportunities with peers and First Nations industry professionals
4. Certificates of participation for professional development records
5. Access to culturally appropriate resources and materials for future classroom use
6. Inspiration and rejuvenation for culturally responsive teaching practice

**Secondary School Corroboree Information** The Short+Sweet Schools Corroboree for Secondary Students (ages 13-17) expands upon the primary program by incorporating advanced elements tailored to older students. This program involves a comprehensive 10-

minute playwriting course, in-depth lessons on advanced playwriting techniques, and culminates in a festival of student-written plays.

### **Educational Benefits for Secondary Students:**

1. Develops sophisticated writing and editing skills
2. Enhances critical thinking and analytical abilities
3. Fosters creativity and innovation in storytelling
4. Promotes cultural awareness and social understanding
5. Develops leadership and collaborative skills

### **Proposed Implementation for Secondary Program:**

1. Curriculum Development:
  - Comprehensive lesson plans covering advanced playwriting techniques
  - Templates for 10-minute play structures and character development
  - Rigorous assessment criteria aligned with senior secondary standards
2. Professional Development:
  - In-depth workshops for English and Drama teachers
  - Ongoing support network including professional playwrights
3. Pilot Program:
  - Initial implementation in select secondary schools
  - Data collection on student engagement and academic performance
  - Evaluation to refine curriculum and assess impact on overall learning
4. Industry and Community Engagement:
  - Collaborate with local theatres and media production companies
  - Organise public performances and potential online showcases

### **Expected Outcomes for Secondary Students:**

1. Enhanced critical thinking and analytical skills
2. Improved advanced literacy and communication abilities
3. Increased proficiency in creative problem-solving
4. Better preparation for tertiary education and creative industries
5. Stronger community engagement and cultural awareness

### **Relevance to NSW Parliamentary Inquiry on Arts and Music Education**

- **Innovative Education Programs (a.i, a.ii, a.iv, a.vi, b.v, b.vi):**
  - Supports formal arts and creative industries education at primary and secondary levels.
  - Demonstrates the role of arts organisations in education and the development of creative skills.

- Enhances curriculum efficacy in delivering learning outcomes in arts-related subjects.
- **Work-Integrated Learning (a.v, a.vii, a.viii):**
  - Provides hands-on experience and real-world applications of classroom learning.
  - Ensures inclusive resource allocation for regional schools.
  - Supports coordination between the arts, culture, and education systems.
- **Cultural Preservation and Expression (a.iv, a.vi, b.vi, b.viii):**
  - Promotes First Nations storytelling traditions and languages.
  - Uses performance arts to record and preserve endangered Aboriginal languages.
  - Facilitates community engagement and support.
- **Community Engagement (a.iv, a.vi, a.viii):**
  - Builds connections between schools, communities, and First Nations arts organisations.
  - Fosters cultural exchange and mutual understanding.
  - Engages community Elders and cultural advisors.
- **Entrepreneurial Skills and Industry Experience (a.ix, b.viii):**
  - Provides opportunities for students to develop entrepreneurial skills.
  - Enhances job readiness through industry engagement and practical experience.

### **Summary of Points of Relevance to the Enquiry**

- Key Activities and Programs: a.i, a.ii, a.iv, a.v, a.vi, a.vii, a.viii, b.v, b.vi
- Innovative Education Programs: a.i, a.ii, a.iv, a.vi, b.v, b.vi
- Work-Integrated Learning: a.v, a.vii, a.viii
- Cultural Preservation and Expression: a.iv, a.vi, b.vi, b.viii
- Community Engagement: a.iv, a.vi, a.viii
- Entrepreneurial Skills and Industry Experience: a.ix, b.viii
- Support Needed from Government: a.iii, a.iv, a.v, a.vi, a.vii, a.viii, a.ix, a.x

This comprehensive Corroboree program, along with the dedicated Teacher Professional Development track, ensures that all participants - First Nations students, teachers, schools, and communities - gain maximum benefit from this celebratory and educational event that honours and promotes First Nations culture and storytelling.

## **S+S First Nations submission**

### **Appendix 4**

## **Curriculum Overview: First Nations Playwriting Program for Primary and Secondary Students**

The First Nations 5-Minute Playwriting Program is a culturally responsive curriculum designed to introduce First Nations primary and secondary school students to the art of playwriting while celebrating their cultural heritage. The program is offered in four flexible formats to accommodate various classroom needs:

1. **Comprehensive:** 10 lessons, 60 minutes each
2. **Condensed:** 10 lessons, 30 minutes each
3. **Intensive:** 4 lessons, 60 minutes each
4. **Specialised:** 4 lessons, 30 minutes each (focus: scriptwriting for video projects)

### **Key Components:**

- First Nations storytelling techniques and cultural elements
- Character development rooted in community experiences
- Dialogue creation incorporating local language and expressions
- Story structure reflecting First Nations narrative traditions
- Performance and sharing opportunities

### **Benefits for Students:**

1. Public recognition of their creative work and cultural expression
2. Opportunity to perform for a larger audience, including community Elders
3. Exposure to diverse First Nations plays and performances from peers
4. Networking with other young First Nations creatives
5. Confidence building through public performance of culturally significant work
6. Constructive feedback from First Nations industry professionals
7. Inspiration from watching other First Nations performances
8. Introduction to potential career paths in First Nations theatre and film

### **Relevance to Enquiry:**

- Enhances cultural awareness and social understanding (a.iv, a.vi)
- Provides pathways to creative industries and entrepreneurial skills (a.ix, b.viii)



### **Benefits for Teachers:**

1. Showcase of their students' achievements in cultural storytelling
2. Networking with other educators focused on First Nations drama
3. Exposure to varied First Nations teaching methods and outcomes
4. Inspiration for future culturally responsive classroom activities
5. Opportunity to assess their program's effectiveness in cultural education
6. Professional development in First Nations arts education

### **Relevance to Enquiry:**

- Supports professional development in arts education (a.iv, a.vi)

### **Benefits for Schools and Communities:**

1. Positive public relations opportunity highlighting First Nations culture
2. Showcase of the school's commitment to First Nations arts education
3. Networking opportunities with other schools and First Nations arts organisations
4. Strengthened community engagement and support
5. Enhancement of the school's cultural profile and commitment to reconciliation

### **Relevance to Enquiry:**

- Promotes community engagement and cultural understanding (a.iv, a.vi)

### **Implementation Strategy:**

1. **Pilot Phase:**
  - Select diverse schools across NSW for initial implementation.
  - **Relevance to Enquiry:** Ensures inclusive resource allocation for regional schools (b.v, b.vi)
2. **Teacher Training:**
  - Provide professional development for participating teachers.
  - **Relevance to Enquiry:** Enhances teaching methods and supports educational objectives (a.iv, a.vi)
3. **Resource Distribution:**
  - Supply curriculum materials and guidelines.
  - **Relevance to Enquiry:** Supports quality arts education (a.iv, a.vi)
4. **Community Engagement:**
  - Collaborate with local First Nations communities and Elders.
  - **Relevance to Enquiry:** Fosters cross-cultural collaboration and understanding (a.iv, a.vi, b.v, b.vi)
5. **Evaluation:**
  - Conduct ongoing assessment of program effectiveness.

- **Relevance to Enquiry:** Ensures program quality and effectiveness (a.iv, a.vi)
6. **Expansion:**
- Gradually roll out to all interested primary and secondary schools in NSW.
  - **Relevance to Enquiry:** Supports broad implementation and long-term impact (a.iv, a.vi, b.v, b.vi)

**Conclusion:**

The First Nations 5-Minute Playwriting Program offers a unique, culturally rich learning experience that benefits students, teachers, schools, and communities. By fostering creativity, cultural pride, and essential skills, this program contributes to the holistic development of First Nations students while strengthening community bonds and preserving cultural traditions.

**Relevance to Enquiry Summary:**

- Addresses the quality and effectiveness of arts education by introducing innovative teaching methods and content.
- Demonstrates the role of arts organisations in developing creative skills and supporting educational objectives.
- Ensures inclusive resource allocation for regional schools.
- Provides students with opportunities to gain industry experience and develop entrepreneurial skills.

**Program Structure**

**Primary Level:**

1. **Comprehensive Format (10 lessons, 60 minutes each)**
  - Lesson 1: Introduction to First Nations Theatre and Storytelling
  - Lesson 2-3: Character Development
  - Lesson 4-5: Dialogue Creation and Language Integration
  - Lesson 6-7: Story Structure and Cultural Elements
  - Lesson 8-9: Rehearsal and Performance Techniques
  - Lesson 10: Final Performance and Reflection
2. **Condensed Format (10 lessons, 30 minutes each)**
  - Similar structure to the Comprehensive Format but with condensed activities.
3. **Intensive Format (4 lessons, 60 minutes each)**
  - Lesson 1: Introduction and Character Development
  - Lesson 2: Dialogue and Story Structure
  - Lesson 3: Cultural Elements and Rehearsal
  - Lesson 4: Performance and Reflection

**4. Specialised Format (4 lessons, 30 minutes each)**

- Focus on scriptwriting for video projects, incorporating digital storytelling techniques.

**Secondary Level:**

**1. Comprehensive Format (12 weeks, 2 sessions per week)**

- Week 1: Introduction to 10-Minute Play Format and Contemporary Playwrights
- Week 2: Advanced Character Development and Psychology
- Week 3: Dialogue Writing Techniques and Subtext
- Week 4: Plot Structure and Pacing for 10-Minute Plays
- Week 5: Exploring Theatrical Genres and Styles
- Week 6: Themes and Social Commentary in Short Plays
- Week 7: First Draft Writing and Peer Review
- Week 8: Revision Techniques and Script Doctoring
- Week 9: Staging and Direction Concepts
- Week 10: Rehearsal Techniques and Actor Coaching
- Week 11: Technical Elements - Lighting, Sound, and Set Design Concepts
- Week 12: Final Performances and Critical Reflection

**2. Condensed Format (10 lessons, 30 minutes each)**

- Similar structure to the Comprehensive Format but with condensed activities.

**3. Intensive Format (4 lessons, 60 minutes each)**

- Similar structure to the Primary Intensive Format but tailored for older students.

**4. Specialised Format (4 lessons, 30 minutes each)**

- Focus on scriptwriting for video projects, incorporating digital storytelling techniques.

## **S+S First Nations submission Appendix 5**

### **LINKS**

Shorter+Sweeter, S+S Film (Hollywood) partnerships with  
Lee Strasberg Institute and Stella Adler Academy,  
S+S Masterclasses with Sir Ian McKellan and Peter Garrett

**Peter Garrett Speech:** [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1RFwmF8d3GJnmTjVNC-VklTdwXMVhqcRU/view?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1RFwmF8d3GJnmTjVNC-VklTdwXMVhqcRU/view?usp=drive_link)

**Peter Garrett S+S Masterclass:**  
[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1MhLZ7\\_RmnHrHEmKWQuP5w51ks3RO6p6I/view?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1MhLZ7_RmnHrHEmKWQuP5w51ks3RO6p6I/view?usp=drive_link)

**Ian McKellan S+S Masterclass:**  
[https://drive.google.com/file/d/0BwGnd1z7QPJNMTcxcTdmYVnN2c/view?usp=drive\\_link&resourcekey=0-6Z7sST5rSGui0SHrqBAyTA](https://drive.google.com/file/d/0BwGnd1z7QPJNMTcxcTdmYVnN2c/view?usp=drive_link&resourcekey=0-6Z7sST5rSGui0SHrqBAyTA)

**S+S Film partnership (Stella Adler):**  
[https://drive.google.com/file/d/0BwGnd1z7QPJNQTF3Z0Fuc3YwODA/view?usp=drive\\_link&resourcekey=0-FR8u3PPaUujoE1k8q9ADbQ](https://drive.google.com/file/d/0BwGnd1z7QPJNQTF3Z0Fuc3YwODA/view?usp=drive_link&resourcekey=0-FR8u3PPaUujoE1k8q9ADbQ)

**S+S Theatre and Film partnership (Strasberg Institute):**  
[https://drive.google.com/file/d/11TZayS-YIObTgKYosweE8kchXZ\\_7g5\\_P/view?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/11TZayS-YIObTgKYosweE8kchXZ_7g5_P/view?usp=drive_link)

**Shorter+Sweeter Touring Show:**  
[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Udc7YUVpJTmDpqcOclmJd8r3ttCZxGib/view?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Udc7YUVpJTmDpqcOclmJd8r3ttCZxGib/view?usp=drive_link)

**S+S Film Gala Final at The Egyptian Theatre (Hollywood Blvd):**  
[https://drive.google.com/file/d/11TZayS-YIObTgKYosweE8kchXZ\\_7g5\\_P/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/11TZayS-YIObTgKYosweE8kchXZ_7g5_P/view?usp=sharing)

