

Email to: All VCAM staff and students

From: Vice-Chancellor and Dean, Faculty of the VCA and Music

Subject line: Key appointments to VCAM consultation panel

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Dear colleagues and students,

We are pleased to report that Dr Ziggy Switkowski has agreed to be the independent Chair of the Review Committee that will undertake open and extensive consultation in response to the discussion paper concerning the future of the Faculty of the VCA and Music (VCAM) released earlier this month.

And former Victorian Government Arts Minister, award-winning journalist and writer, the Hon Mary Delahunty will join the Committee as a community representative with a background in the arts.

As Chair of Opera Australia and a director of the Australian Major Performing Arts Group, Dr Switkowski brings strong arts board experience to the Review Committee. A former Telstra CEO, Dr Switkowski has had a distinguished career in major Australian and international companies including Kodak and Optus before moving to Telstra. He is a University of Melbourne graduate with a degree in Science with honours in Physics and a PhD.

Ms Delahunty served in several ministerial portfolios in the Victorian Parliament including Arts, Education, Planning and Women's Affairs. She has extensive experience on arts boards including the Melbourne Recital Centre and Orchestra Victoria. She is a member of the board of the Harold Mitchell Foundation and the Dame Elisabeth Murdoch Sculpture Foundation. Well-known for presenting ABC TV news and current affairs programs, the 7.30 Report and Four Corners, she received Australia's most prestigious award in journalism, a Gold Walkley, for her international Four Corners work.

These appointments to the Review Committee follow the release earlier this month of the *Defining the Future* discussion paper which signaled the beginning of an extensive consultation on the key challenges and opportunities facing the Faculty and the University in higher arts education. Members of the Review Committee drawn from VCAM staff and students and the wider University, and the VCAM advisory board will be announced shortly.

The Review Committee is charged with considering the responses to the discussion paper, carrying out detailed discussions with key stakeholders, and preparing a report and recommendations for the Faculty and the University. Dr Switkowski and Ms Delahunty will bring a breadth of external experience and commitment to the Review Committee.

Dr Switkowski acknowledges that the former VCA and the former Faculty of Music each has a rich heritage, but that the future holds many challenges and opportunities we need to address together. He sees the consultation and review as a chance to find the best way forward for higher arts education in Melbourne.

We encourage the VCAM community to consider making submissions to this important consultation, individually or in groups. Written submissions are due by 12 February 2010 at [vcam-feedback@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:vcam-feedback@unimelb.edu.au)

Meetings with key stakeholders and interested parties will be held in the new year and the Review Committee aims to submit its findings to the Vice-Chancellor and Dean of the Faculty of the VCA and Music during April 2010. Recommendations that impact on the former VCA will be presented to the VCA Integration Committee for approval before submission of the final report to the University of Melbourne Council.

Any proposals for changes to curriculum will be addressed by the Faculty before progressing for consideration by the University's Academic Board, which oversees the quality and standards of the University's learning, teaching and research activities, and the University Council.

Glyn Davis, Vice-Chancellor

Sharman Pretty, Dean, Faculty of the VCA and Music