

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
FESTIVAL AUSTRALIA INCORPORATION (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE 1978

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

ORDINANCE NO. 34 OF 1978

The Festival Australia Incorporation Ordinance 1973 established Festival Australia, a body corporate, with the general objects of promoting and encouraging Australian creativity in the arts and sciences particularly by organising national festivals. The only festival organised by the Corporation was Australia '75 which took place in Canberra in 1975.

The Festival Australia Incorporation (Amendment) Ordinance 1978 amends the Festival Australia Incorporation Ordinance 1973 to effectively suspend the operations of Festival Australia. This action has been decided upon due to the lack of both public and private funds to enable the Festival to continue its operations. The amending legislation will place the Corporation in a dormant state from which it may be reactivated should the need arise.

Appointments to the Board of Governors of Festival Australia expired on 30.6.1978 and the Board has not been replaced. As there will be no Board members of the Corporation during the period of suspension any rights, privileges, obligations and liabilities of Festival Australia will vest in or be enforceable against the Commonwealth. Similarly any legal proceedings by or against the Corporation may be continued by or against the Commonwealth.

The Ordinance also removes the present requirement for the Board to report at the end of each financial year to the Minister on its activities and to arrange an annual audit of its books, accounts and records.

The Festival Australia Incorporation (Amendment) Ordinance 1978 recognises the possible need to re-establish the Corporation by reserving to the Minister the power to appoint a new Board of Governors.