***This email template has been developed by Ausdance VIC as a tool for members of the dance sector to reach out to candidates in their electorate.***

**Template Instructions**

1. DO NOT SEND THIS TEMPLATE WITHOUT CUSTOMISATION.
2. Copy and paste the below into an email.
3. Update text highlighted in YELLOW for your situation
4. Add or adjust content to your preferences.
5. Tailor it to a specific candidate if you are familiar with their platform and policies.

**Subject:** Supporting Dance and the Arts this Federal Election

**Dear [CANDIDATE NAME],**

My name is [YOUR NAME], and I am a resident and voter in the [ELECTORATE NAME] electorate. I’ve lived here for [X YEARS/MONTHS], and I care deeply about the role of arts and culture in our community.

I’m writing to ask how you and your party plan to support the arts—especially dance—if elected to federal office. As someone who is actively involved in the sector (e.g. *I am a professional dancer / choreographer / dance teacher / passionate supporter of the arts*), I see the value of dance in everyday life and the urgent need for better policy support and investment.

In Australia, **573,726 adults and 387,617 children** participate regularly in dance activities. According to Fitness Australia, dance is the **third most popular form of recreational activity**. It is part of everyday Australians’ lives and deserves recognition in national arts policies.

Dance contributes to physical, mental and social wellbeing:

* It burns calories, strengthens muscles, and improves balance and cardiovascular health.
* It enhances mood, releases endorphins, and builds social connections—reducing loneliness and fostering community.
* It boosts confidence, compassion and reduces anxiety and trauma.
* It improves memory and cognitive function, and protects the brain from age-related decline.

The Ausdance National Network has put forward seven key policy recommendations to ensure a thriving future for dance in Australia. I urge you to consider and publicly support these:

* **First Nations Dance Leadership** – Invest in long-term workforce capacity for First Nations dance practitioners, leaders, and communities.
* **Safety in Dance** – Support nationally consistent child safety regulations, best practice guidelines, and ongoing professional development.
* **Stronger Arts Education** – Properly resource schools to teach the arts curriculum and reverse unfair university fee hikes for arts and humanities courses.
* **Fairer Pay and Workplace Protections** – Address wage disparities in dance and help employers meet their legal obligations.
* **Affordable and Accessible Venues** – Review government venue pricing to sustain independent practice and production viability.
* **Dance and Wellbeing** – Expand dance programs for vulnerable and ageing Australians based on evidence of positive health outcomes.
* **Data-Driven Investment** – Fund sector research and data collection to inform policy and investment.

These priorities would help create a more inclusive, sustainable, and impactful arts sector—and they matter to voters like me.

Thank you for your time and service to our community. I’d welcome the opportunity to hear more about your stance on support for the arts and dance sector.

Warm regards,
[YOUR NAME]
[Email / Phone / Suburb (optional)]