SCHEDULE D: AUDIENCES AT HDR EXAMINATIONS AT WHICH A CANDIDATE GIVES A PERFORMANCE

Background Principles

Deakin University places very few restrictions on what can be examined in an HDR examination. Candidates are required to present a thesis for examination, where thesis is defined as 'such materials and activities as are presented for examination by a candidate'. The conduct of examinations is largely at the discretion of the Research and Research Training Committee, subject to the following principles:

a) the award of a research degree by Deakin University requires the candidate to satisfactorily complete an approved program of research under the guidance of a super visor within a prescribed time period
b) the results of the research are incorporated into a thesis which is submitted for examination at the end of the program. The thesis must be a self-contained, integrated, and coherent body of work which constitutes a substantial original contribution to knowledge as judged by disinterested experts
c) unless determined otherwise the thesis shall include substantial written work.

The Thesis Examination Subcommittee, acting on behalf of the Research and Research Training Committee, may approve the inclusion of a range of items and materials in the thesis provided that:

a) the information presented is central to the results of the research
b) the form and presentation are appropriate to the discipline
c) the information cannot be presented in the printed thesis.

In some disciplines, such as the creative arts, the thesis may include other material such as an exhibition of works of art, a design or a performance. These will generally be supported by a written document which elucidates and places in context the body of work presented.

Candidates will be assessed on:

a) a thesis embodying the results of the approved research program, written in English
b) any advanced study component of the program, where required.

Candidates may apply to the Thesis Examination Subcommittee to request consideration of any alternative assessment arrangements.

The Thesis Examination Subcommittee will advise candidates whether their request has been approved and any conditions associated with approval, which must then be documented in the *Candidature Agreement*.

Candidates may submit a request in writing to allow an audience at a performance that forms part of a thesis to the Executive Officer, HDR.

The candidate should discuss the proposed format of the thesis with appropriate members of the supervisory team. The candidate must obtain approval of the general nature and form of the thesis from the Thesis Examination Subcommittee at an early stage; this is normally covered in the *Candidature Agreement*.

One mode of examination that has been approved in the area of the performing arts is loosely described as the 'performance plus exegesis' mode.

The everyday use of the term 'performance' conjures a vision of a hall or theatre with an audience, and it is common for a candidate intending to be examined in this mode to expect that an audience will be present. However the Thesis Examination Subcommittee is unlikely to approve the presence of an audience in most cases.

This document describes the conditions that apply when a candidate wishes to perform for an examination.

Nature and Purpose of the HDR Examination

The degree is awarded for a substantial original contribution to knowledge, and the purpose of the examination is to determine that this contribution has been made. The evidence is provided in the materials and activities that constitute the thesis. In some cases conveying this evidence to the examiners can be significantly assisted by the candidate performing for the examiners. However it is not automatic that an HDR project in the performing arts will necessarily involve a performance.

This is a research degree rather than a degree in the creative arts, and it is neither necessary nor appropriate to demonstrate all the techniques involved in the research program any more than it would be to hold an examination in chemistry in the laboratory.

Where performing is appropriate, it is important to recognise that this is an examination rather than a performance in the colloquial sense. It is not clear that an audience is essential or desirable in this process. An audience introduces an uncontrollable element into the examination that could lead to an unsatisfactory outcome through no fault of the University or the candidate, or could place the examiners under substantial pressure, direct or indirect, which could affect their judgment.

Approval

Explicit approval is required from the Thesis Examination Subcommittee for examinations involving more than the traditional printed volume. The requirement for a performance should be foreshadowed in the *Candidature Agreement*.

This must be followed by a formal request for approval as soon as the purpose and specific details of the performance have been refined in discussion with the supervisor, which should take place within the first year of candidature.

The request, which should be lodged with the Executive Officer, Higher Degrees by Research, should provide the following information:

a) a description of the performance for which approval is sought, including the requirements on the venue such as the facilities needed
b) the details of people other than the candidate who would take part in the performance, such as musicians, lighting operators and the like
d) an argued case in favour of approval, which demonstrates that the performance is essential in the presentation of the results of the research, and that the information it conveys cannot be included in the written document
c) a statement from the principal supervisor supporting the request, and recommendation from the Head of School.

It is understood that there may be a wish to change some of these details as the research program evolves. Approval should be sought for each major change as the need becomes clear. Changes requested within six months of the expected performance date may require this date to be changed.

An audience is not normally permitted at a performance given as part of an HDR examination. A candidate can request that an audience be present. The request should be made well in advance of the intended examination, and must include a case justifying the presence of an audience in conveying the new knowledge created during the research program.