



Government  
of South Australia

## Report on the disability & arts sector consultation DQ Facilitation

### Response from Arts SA and the Office for Disability and Client Services

Late last year, Arts SA funded a sector-wide consultation to determine the service needs of the sector and to identify the most appropriate model for the delivery of these services, as well as the continuation of key programs that have a positive impact on the lives and arts practice of South Australians with disabilities.

The consultation included key disability arts organisations, arts workers and artists across South Australia, the arts sector more broadly and national stakeholders.

DQ Facilitation submitted its *Report on the Disability & Arts Sector Consultation* to Arts SA, which included a number of recommendations.

Following consultation with the disability and arts sector, Arts SA and a focus group, the consultants proposed a two-stage model for the delivery of services over the next three years, which involves:

#### *Stage One - A Partnered Transition (1 – 3 years)*

- Partnership with a philosophically aligned organisation to support the delivery of services and foster and incubate community development.
- In addition to artist support services, the partner organisation/s to work with the sector to develop collaborations and facilitate debate.
- A 'Project Reference Group' to be convened to oversee the partnership and provide guidance and disability and arts expertise.

#### *Stage Two - An Independent Organisation (3 years >)*

- Support the establishment of an independent body to represent and advocate for the disability arts sector and continue the activity undertaken by the partner organisation/s in Stage One.

### Recommendations

1. *That Arts SA implement Stage One of the Model as suggested and formally review it within three years if there is not evident progress to Stage Two.*

Arts SA has accepted this recommendation.

As a result, an important partnership with the Community Arts Network of South Australia (CAN SA) and the Disability Information Resource Centre (DIRC) has been established. This initiative, which will commence from 1 July 2009, will be funded through Arts SA and the Office of Disability and Client Services.

It will provide responsive services and programs to artists with disabilities and the disability arts sector. This initiative responds to the key priorities identified by the majority of people involved in the consultation:

- artist information and support services
- development and maintenance of a high quality web site and networking
- development of collaboration across the sector including workshops, exhibitions, performance opportunities and initiatives
- work with arts organisation to build pathways for emerging artists
- consideration of community agreed and disability led future strategic directions and needs of the disability and arts sector.



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An important feature of this partnership will be the establishment of a Reference Group, in consultation with DIRC and CAN SA with representatives from both the arts and disability sector. Its role will be to guide and steer the work of both CAN SA and DIRC to ensure the programs and services remain responsive to the needs of this important sector.

This Reference Group will be convened by CAN SA and DIRC in consultation with Arts SA and the Office of Disability and Client Services at the time of the commencement of this initiative. This Reference group will initially be jointly chaired by the Chairs of both organisations.

2. *That the Dawn Slade Faull Award receives a sum of \$1000 annually to assist with administration costs.*

Arts SA accepts this recommendation.

3. *That Arts SA do the following:*

- By whatever means appropriate, ensure Arts organisations receiving any Arts funding in from the South Australian government implement serious Disability Action Plans with commitments to high levels of access including for performers, audiences and the attitudes of employers and employees and demonstrate consistent progress*
- Provide each genre with international examples of accessibility, inclusion, participation, if necessary, on the basis of contracted research*
- Examine with State Arts bodies and training centres, the possibility of building foundation courses & other pathways to professional learning and practice*
- Initiate a bi-annual cross government forum (including Local Government) to improve shared understandings and consider ways the portfolios of Arts, Health, Education, Transport, Families & Communities, etc can work with the Disability & Arts Sector and that consideration be given to having these forums facilitated by an independent and skilled person such as the CEO of Julia Farr.*

Arts SA notes these recommendations and will consider their implementation in the context of future program development.

Arts SA and ODACS recognise that the sector is committed to improved levels of access for people with a disability to arts services and programs, and will continue to work together and with the sector to achieve these improved outcomes for people with a disability.

4. *That Arts SA through the State Government, actively engage with the Federal Government through the Parliamentary Secretary for Disability, Mr Bill Shorten, to seek Federal support for:*

- Funding to improve all levels of access to iconic and major community Arts venues in South Australia*
- Greater acknowledgement through all employment avenues of the viability of arts based work*
- Ensuring all SA Festivals are accessible to people with a disability.*

*We suggest that the above is consistent with the role of State Parties in the UN Convention quoted early in this document.*



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Arts SA notes these recommendations and will consider their implementation in the context of its participation in the development of the *National Arts and Disability Strategy*.

5. *The Report, or a summary version, or a Response to the Report, be located on the Arts SA website and those consulted be advised by mail or email of its location.*

Arts SA has accepted this recommendation, go to [www.arts.sa.gov.au](http://www.arts.sa.gov.au).

### Disability Arts in South Australia

- South Australia has a proud history in developing and supporting innovative arts programs for people with disabilities.
- In 2006, the announcement of \$1m through the establishment of the Richard Llewellyn Arts Disability Trust for projects and initiatives that develop and celebrate the artistic and creative aspirations of people with disabilities in South Australia. This trust was the first initiative of its type and now being piloted in WA.
- In 2007, \$190,851 was allocated to 22 projects and in 2008 \$198,168 was allocated to 22 projects. During this time, 24 individual artists and 20 organisations have received funds to develop projects that have included:
  - an international theatre collaboration
  - presentation of work at an International disability conference in Liverpool, UK,
  - the development of a national touring performance featuring blind singers
  - sell out performances in SA festivals
- Arts SA funding allocated to disability clients for 2008-09 is \$403,688 through the following programs:
  - Industry Development (Organisations) program (Organisations include: No Strings Attached Theatre of Disability)
  - Community Arts Development program (Organisation include: Hep C Council of Australia, No Strings Attached Theatre of Disability, Restless Dance Theatre, Tutti Ensemble Inc)
  - Richard Llewellyn Arts Disability Trust (Organisations include Australia Rehabilitation & Assistive Technology Association, Feast Lesbian & Gay Cultural Festival, The Lampshade Shop, No Strings Attached Theatre of Disability, Queer and Differently Abled, SA Writers Centre Inc, Tutti Ensemble Inc). This fund also supports individuals.
- Restless Dance Theatre continues to receive core funding from the Dance Board of the Australia Council and the South Australian Youth Arts Board (SAYAB) and present internationally acclaimed work.

Also, a film based on the work of Restless Dance Company was premiered at the Adelaide Film Festival 2009. This film was funded through the Adelaide Film Festival investment fund.