

MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday 25 May, 2016

Country Arts Support Program grants open for 2017

Arts OutWest is encouraging local groups with arts projects in mind to apply for the 2017 round of Country Arts Support Program funding.

The State Government's annual Country Arts Support Program (CASP) provides small grants to groups and organisations in regional NSW to run their own local arts projects.

Key dates for 2017 funding have been brought forward. **Applications open May 30 will close 28 July 2016.**

"The closing date is much earlier than previous years so groups will need to think now about their projects for next year," Arts OutWest executive director Tracey Callinan said.

"CASP funds are a valuable way to kick start exciting local, on-the-ground arts projects," Ms Callinan said, "This long-running funding program is about giving regional people access to a diverse range of arts programs - activities that are made for and by the local community."

CASP grants are for small amounts of money - up to \$3000 - and are available primarily to cover professional artist's fees, travel and accommodation.

The seven projects funded through CASP in 2016 have included a weaving workshop for women in Oberon, drama workshops and a performance for young people in Bathurst, and drama workshops in Lake Cargelligo and Condobolin. In coming months there will be a pop-up musical in Spring Hill, a burlesque in Hill End, and two projects in Lithgow: a 12 week course developing roving characters for Halloween and music workshops for Lithgow City Band.

The funding is open to all incorporated associations, not just those focused on the arts. Unincorporated groups or collectives of artists are allowed to find a local organisation to auspice their funding.

For the first time all applications must be made online using the government's SmartyGrants system. Arts OutWest staff can help applicants use the new online process. Groups in Central West NSW region wishing to apply for the funding *must* discuss their project with Arts OutWest before submitting an online application.

The Country Arts Support Program of Regional Arts NSW is funded by the NSW Government through Arts NSW.

To apply, read the funding criteria at <http://regionalartsnsw.com.au/grants/casp/> and contact Arts OutWest on 02 6338 4657 or email artsoutwest@csu.edu.au

Free grant writing workshops

To help groups get their grant writing skills up to speed and to help people through the new online CASP application system Arts OutWest will run free grant writing workshops in Bathurst (Friday 3 June), Lithgow (Monday 4 July) and Orange (Friday 15 July). Call 6338 4657 to book a spot.

Caption for image attached to email: Get your hands on money to make art. The CASP funded 'West Women Weaving' workshop with artist Harriet Goodall, organised by Friends of Oberon Library, held in May 2016. Photo: Arts OutWest.



Arts OutWest is supported by Arts NSW, Charles Sturt University and our eleven member councils
www.artsoutwest.org.au



The Country Arts Support Program is an Arts NSW devolved funding program, administered by Regional Arts NSW and local Regional Arts Boards on behalf of the NSW Government

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