

MEDIA RELEASE

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Call out for musicians to train as *Musicians in Hospitals*

Arts OutWest will be training musicians to work in hospitals and aged care.

They're currently looking for musicians in the NSW Central West to take up this paid opportunity. Applications close June 13 with training happening in Parkes at the end of June.

After a pilot music in hospitals program in Parkes and Forbes, Lachlan Health Service has funded Arts OutWest to train a small group of local musicians for future employment in health settings.

"There's a wide body of research that live music experiences can have beneficial outcomes for people in hospitals and aged care," Arts OutWest executive director Tracey Callinan said.

The program calls on musicians to work in flexible, fluid, responsive and dynamic ways in hospitals.

The two-day training program includes sessions with UK based leaders in this field Opus and with trained music therapist Kerrie Davies. The training includes practical experience in Parkes Hospital with follow up supervised sessions other local hospitals or aged care facilities.

Arts OutWest are looking for six experienced musicians who are excited about the idea of playing music in hospitals and aged care as part of health programs.

"We're looking for just the right type of musicians for this opportunity," Ms Callinan said. "Not just good musicians but people who share their music well, who are comfortable interacting (sometimes one-on-one) with people and responding to their needs, who are adaptable."

You don't need to be a professional musician or have music qualifications but you must be able to demonstrate accomplishment. It's open to musicians of all styles and genres – although people who have a versatile and wide repertoire have an advantage and the musicians should play instruments that are portable and not extremely loud. Being able to sing can also be useful.

"Maybe the people were looking for work the live music scene at night. Perhaps they're musicians who work in education. We'd love to hear from people who are as excited about this type of work as we are," Ms Callinan said.

Participants must be based in the Arts OutWest service area in the NSW Central West.

Download the selection criteria from www.artsoutwest.org.au. Applications close June 13.

Contact Arts OutWest executive director Tracey Callinan on 6338 4657 or artsoutwest@csu.edu.au

Image: Kerrie Davies performed for patients at both Parkes and Forbes Hospitals. Photo: Jay-Lee Zagrovic



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