

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## Country Arts Support Program now open for 2018

**Arts OutWest is encouraging local groups with arts projects in mind to apply for the 2018 round of Country Arts Support Program funding.**

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

Applications for 2018 funding **close Thursday 27 July 2017.**

"CASP funds are a valuable way to kick start exciting local, on-the-ground arts projects," Arts OutWest executive director Tracey 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. In 2018 it's expected there will be around \$18,000 to distribute through CASP in the Central West region.

Priority areas for the Arts Outwest region in 2018 are arts and health; Aboriginal arts; cultural tourism and lifelong learning (education or training projects for any age). These align with Arts OutWest's own priorities for the region during 2016-2018. These are priority areas but all projects are encouraged.

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. Likewise if an individual artist has a project in mind they can team up with a local group.

There were six projects funded through CASP in 2017: A commission of a history song in Forbes; Support for 'Fun Theatre for the Very Young' in Bathurst; Aboriginal sculptures for a peace precinct in Parkes; school holiday workshops for kids in Millthorpe; a weekend of workshops celebrating the 150<sup>th</sup> birthday of Henry Lawson in Grenfell; and Aboriginal art based workshops for children in Bathurst. You can read more about these projects under the 'blog' at [artsoutwest.org.au](http://artsoutwest.org.au)

Groups in Central West NSW region wishing to apply for the funding *must* discuss their project with Arts OutWest before submitting an online application.

Applications must also be made online using the government's SmartyGrants system. Arts OutWest staff can help applicants through this easy to use online process.

The Country Arts Support Program of Regional Arts NSW is funded by the NSW Government through Create 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](mailto:artsoutwest@csu.edu.au)

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