

MEDIA RELEASE

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Country Arts Support Program opens the door for local projects



Arts OutWest is encouraging local community groups with arts projects in mind to apply for the 2016 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 for local arts projects.

Applications for 2016 funding close October 1, 2015.

"The funds are a valuable way to kick start exciting local, on-the-ground arts projects," says Arts OutWest Executive Officer Tracey Callinan.

"This long running funding program is about giving regional people access to a diverse range of arts programs, driven locally by the community," says Ms Callinan.

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

Projects funded in 2015 included textile refashioning and upcycling workshops in Tottenham, support for the Central West Comics Fest in Parkes, a series of workshops for Aboriginal women and girls in Lithgow to create welcoming artwork for display in local services and businesses and development workshops for Art Gallery Volunteers at the Grenfell Art Gallery.

Groups that have applied for past funds include town bands, arts groups, festivals and arts councils through to progress associations, agricultural show societies, RSL sub-branches and community service organisations. The funding is open to all incorporated associations. Unincorporated groups or collectives of artists are allowed to find a local organisation to auspice their funding.

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

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

How to apply

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

Image 1: CASP funded workshops at Lithgow Community Projects Image 2: The Bathurst Fibre Muster took place in March and was supported with CASP funding. Photo: Janice Hope. Image 3: The Central West Comics Fest held at Parkes Library, supported with CASP funding.