



Don Harwin

Minister for Resources

Minister for Energy and Utilities

Minister for the Arts

MEDIA RELEASE

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REGIONAL ARTS ON THE RISE WITH NEW FUNDING FROM NSW GOVERNMENT

Arts and culture in regional NSW will continue to shine with an outstanding line-up of new creative projects fast-approaching thanks to over \$259,000 in funding from the NSW Government, announced today by Minister for the Arts, Don Harwin.

Through this funding, creative organisations from across regional and rural NSW will play host to range of short-term, locally initiated community productions, programs, performances and workshops.

Among the 83 projects selected, the program will support a two-day writers festival for primary schools celebrating and educating students in the power of literacy; a 10-week training program for aspiring theatre-makers working with disability, as well as an ensemble choir of over 100 vocalists accompanied by a 45-piece regional orchestra.

Arts Minister, Don Harwin, said that the annual *Country Arts Support Program* (CASP) funding aims to drive creative and vibrant state-wide arts projects that engage diverse audiences and promote an innovative NSW arts and cultural sector.

“This funding reflects our ongoing commitment to promoting diverse arts and cultural experiences in regional NSW – everything from local community street art, youth choirs, and Aboriginal arts as well as securing a number of critically-acclaimed authors and artists that are going on tour.”

“Increasing access and participation in arts and cultural experiences drives economic benefits across the regions and also enables positive social impacts too, including greater awareness, appreciation and expression of our cultural diversity.”

The *Country Arts Support Program* fund is a devolved grants program administered each year by Regional Arts NSW on behalf of Create NSW.

Grants of up to either \$3,000 or \$5,000 (depending on region) are available primarily for professional artists’ fees, travel and accommodation, with applications assessed by 14 regionally-based panels coordinated by the local Regional Arts Boards.

For further information on arts, screen and cultural funding, including targeted support opportunities, visit www.create.nsw.gov.au or email arts.funding@create.nsw.gov.au

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