

(It's No) Drama Initiative Receives Funding

The second stage of the (it's no) drama workshop series has received federal and local government funding to progress in 2017.

A \$5,975 grant was received from the Federal Government's Regional Arts Fund to support Council's \$3,000 funding contribution and additional in-kind support.

The Australian Government's Regional Arts Fund is provided through Regional Arts Australia, administered in Victoria by Regional Arts Victoria.

The project will employ professional artists, arts workers and an arts organisation to plan and deliver six weeks of three hour creative development workshops and one public performance with professional development opportunities.

The project group is expected to form in the new year with the creative development workshops and public performance to be held in mid-2017.

The project follows from a successful workshop series held in April 2016 that was supported by South Gippsland Shire Council, Bass Coast Shire Council, South Coast Access Alliance, FReeZa and Rawcus.

Key founder of the arts initiative Emily Ardley expressed the importance and value of inclusive theatre as a catalyst for social inclusion.

"It is vital for people with disability to have the opportunity to have the best possible arts experiences, make friends and learn things in meaningful ways," said Ms Ardley.

Council's Access and Inclusion Officer Alisha Gilliland was pleased that the program would return to South Gippsland in 2017.

"The (it's no) drama workshops were well supported this year with a number of creative individuals attending who really enjoyed the sessions.

"I would like to congratulate Emily and everyone involved in the (it's no) drama series, their work and commitment has led to the successful continuation of the program," said Ms Gilliland.

Participation in the initiative will be free and creative development workshops and public performance will be held in accessible venues.

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