A two-year NSW Government Partnership between Arts NSW and Ageing, Disability and Home Care to promote a culture of inclusion in the arts and cultural sector for people with a disability.
From the performance *Love Heart Cardigan* at Riverside Theatres, 5 December 2011
Actors: Chris Bunton, Digby Webster, Audrey O’Connor
Director: Alison Richardson
Photographer: Heidrun Lohr
CONTENTS

1. What is the NSW Arts and Disability Partnership? 05
2. Guiding Principles 08
3. How does the NSW Arts and Disability Partnership relate to existing support for arts and disability programs in NSW? 09
4. How did Arts NSW and Ageing Disability and Home Care develop the NSW Arts and Disability Partnership? 14
5. How will the NSW Arts and Disability Partnership operate? 17

The NSW Arts and Disability Partnership is a priority under NSW 2021 - the NSW Government’s 10-year plan to deliver on community priorities. The Partnership is also part of the NSW Government’s commitment to the National Disability Strategy.
Australia should be a country where it is not unusual to see people with disability as participants, organisers and leaders in all parts of civic life including cultural, religious, recreational, political, professional and sporting spheres.

*National Disability Strategy*

The professional arts and cultural sector has a lot to offer to people with a disability.

People with a disability want to experience what arts and culture offer to everyone – such as entertainment, challenge, inspiration, self-expression, learning, connection and an appreciation of diversity – through a range of art forms and arts practices.

People with a disability have a lot to offer the arts and cultural sector – as audiences, participants, creators of artistic work and as employees or volunteers in the sector.

But people with a disability can face significant barriers to engaging with arts and cultural programs and events, developing professional arts practice and working in the arts and cultural sector.

Many professional arts organisations and institutions in NSW run programs for people with a disability. Increasing access to arts and cultural activities is a priority in NSW Government funding programs for arts organisations. However, there has been limited targeted support in NSW in order to increase opportunities for people with a disability seeking to participate in arts and cultural activities and to live creative lives.

The NSW Arts and Disability Partnership seeks to promote a culture of inclusion in the arts and cultural sector for people with a disability.

From 2012, the NSW Government is committing $1.5 million over two years to the NSW Arts and Disability Partnership between Ageing, Disability and Home Care (ADHC) in the NSW Department of Family and Community Services and Arts NSW in the NSW Department of Trade and Investment.

1. WHAT IS THE NSW ARTS AND DISABILITY PARTNERSHIP?
The *NSW Arts and Disability Partnership* will deliver targeted programs that:

- Increase opportunities for people with a disability to participate in arts and cultural activities in metropolitan and regional NSW;
- Support the development of excellence in arts and disability projects and programs;
- Strengthen professional networks in the arts and disability sectors and collaborative partnerships;
- Support creative practice for people with a disability; and
- Identify employment opportunities for people with a disability in the arts and cultural sector.

The *NSW Arts and Disability Partnership* is funded under ADHC’s *Stronger Together Two* disability service plan – the NSW Government’s commitment to provide a disability service system that is more sustainable and responsive to the needs of people with a disability, their families and carers.

The partnership is a priority under *NSW 2021* – the NSW Government’s 10-year plan to deliver on community priorities. It is also part of the NSW Government’s commitment to the *National Disability Strategy*. Information on the consultations and government strategies that have informed the partnership is in section 4.
Western Sydney based new media artist, Daniel Kojta, at work during his 2010 Accessible Arts residency at Bundanon Trust, Nowra.
2. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The *NSW Arts and Disability Partnership* is based on the following principles:

- People with a disability make significant contributions to arts and culture in NSW;

- People with a disability should be able to live creative lives and their artistic aspirations and achievements should be a valued and visible part of our culture;

- Participation in arts and cultural activities by people with a disability helps to expand creative and social networks and to create more socially inclusive and equitable communities;

- People with a disability have a valued role in the workplace.

**KEY FACTS:**

**FOUR MILLION PEOPLE IN AUSTRALIA (18.5% OF THE POPULATION) REPORTED HAVING A DISABILITY IN 2009 AND 2.6 MILLION CARERS PROVIDED ASSISTANCE TO THOSE WHO NEEDED HELP DUE TO DISABILITY OR OLD AGE. (ABS 2010)**
3. HOW DOES THE NSW ARTS AND DISABILITY PARTNERSHIP RELATE TO EXISTING GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR ARTS AND DISABILITY PROGRAMS IN NSW?

The state cultural institutions (the Art Gallery of NSW, the Australian Museum, the Powerhouse Museum, the State Library of NSW and the Sydney Opera House) are working to promote a culture of inclusion in their programs and services, through their exhibitions and performances, arts and cultural education programs, access guides and participation in the Companion Card Scheme.

A number of state-significant arts organisations in NSW, such as the Museum of Contemporary Art and Sydney Film Festival also offer inclusive programs and services.

Students from St Lucy’s school Wahroonga participating in Picasso: Starting with Art, Art Gallery of NSW Access Education program 2011. Photographer: Danielle Gullotta
Professional arts organisations can apply each year to the competitively-assessed Arts Funding Program, administered by Arts NSW, for funding for programs that involve people with a disability as creators, participants and audiences.

In 2011, the Arts Funding Program supported 30 arts and disability programs and projects across NSW, including 14 in regional areas of the state. In 2012 the Arts Funding Program is supporting 38 arts and disability programs and projects, including 14 in regional areas.

Arts organisations in NSW that received funding from the 2012 Arts Funding Program for arts and disability programs include:

- Arts OutWest
- Illawarra Performing Arts Centre
- Lismore Regional Gallery
- Penrith Performing and Visual Arts
- Powerhouse Youth Theatre
- Riverside Theatres
- Shopfront Theatre for Young People
- Studio Artes

In addition, Arts NSW provides core funding to Accessible Arts, the state-wide peak body for arts and disability in NSW. Accessible Arts’ services include arts development, audience development, training and providing information about ways to encourage the full participation of people with a disability in the arts. ADHC also provides core funding to Accessible Arts.

Professional arts programs and projects for people with a disability remain a priority under the annual Arts Funding Program. Information on applications to the annual Arts Funding Program is available on the Arts NSW website: [www.arts.nsw.gov.au](http://www.arts.nsw.gov.au)
AART.BOXX is a biennial exhibition run by Accessible Arts and the University of Sydney’s Sydney College of the Arts to showcase contemporary visual arts practice by artists with a disability. In 2011, the Framing Gravity exhibition at the Sydney College of the Arts Gallery included works on paper, sculptures, textiles and short films.
In addition to the *NSW Arts and Disability Partnership*, ADHC provides a range of programs and supports that may facilitate people to pursue their educational, employment and recreational goals and interests, including arts and cultural activities.

Local councils are another important source of information and programs. Many local councils across the state provide professional and recreational arts and cultural programs and services for their communities, including people with a disability, through public libraries and council-run museums, galleries and arts centres.
**KEY FACTS:**

**NSW ARTS ORGANISATIONS, DISABILITY SERVICE ORGANISATIONS AND LOCAL COUNCILS THAT PROVIDE ARTS PROGRAMS FOR PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY NOMINATED FUNDING AS THE MAIN ADDITIONAL SUPPORT REQUIRED (85%) FOLLOWED BY ACCESS TO SUITABLE ARTS WORKERS (OVER 60%) AND INFORMATION ABOUT SIMILAR PROJECTS AND GROUPS (60%).**

**69% OF SURVEY PARTICIPANTS WHO DO NOT PROVIDE ARTS AND DISABILITY PROGRAMS WISH TO DO SO.**

From Accessible Arts 2010 Survey of Programs and Projects for People with a Disability in NSW:

In 2009, Arts NSW and ADHC began discussions on ways to increase participation by people with a disability in professional arts and cultural activities.

These discussions occurred in the context of new state and national strategies about services for people with a disability. Extensive consultation was undertaken during the development of these strategies, including consultation with people with a disability and the arts and disability sectors. These strategies include:

**THE NATIONAL ARTS AND DISABILITY STRATEGY**

The *National Arts and Disability Strategy* was released by the Cultural Ministers Council in 2009, following consultations with arts organisations, disability organisations and people with disabilities across Australia. The *Strategy* identifies a wide range of issues which prevent people with a disability and their supporters from engaging in arts and culture and suggests actions to improve access to and participation in arts and culture.


In line with the goals of the *National Arts and Disability Strategy*, Arts NSW commissioned the Nous Group in February 2010 to identify gaps and opportunities for increased activity and investment, in order to expand the capacity of arts organisations to offer arts and disability programs and projects. As part of this work, the Nous Group conducted targeted consultations with stakeholders including Accessible Arts, arts organisations, the state cultural institutions and ADHC.

3. ibid, page 31.
**STRONGER TOGETHER TWO 2011–2016**

The NSW Government’s 10-year *Stronger Together* plan aims to reshape and improve the way people with a disability, their families and carers are supported in NSW. *Stronger Together* emphasises a person-centred approach for access to services. The first phase of *Stronger Together* included funding for major service expansions and reforms in family support, day programs, transitions to school and employment, respite services and supported accommodation.

The second phase of the plan – *Stronger Together Two 2011–2016* – outlines further reforms in support for people with a disability, their families and carers. Person centred approaches and individualised and portable funding arrangements will become available from July 2014, making it easier for people to pursue the interests and activities that are important to them.


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**THE NATIONAL DISABILITY STRATEGY**

Commonwealth, state and territory governments and the Australian Local Government Association are signatories to the *National Disability Strategy (NDS) 2010–2020*.

The NDS outlines a 10 year plan to improve the lives of Australians with a disability, promote participation, and create a more inclusive society. It has a vision of ‘an inclusive Australian society that enables people with disability to fulfil their potential as equal citizens’.

Under the NDS, governments have committed to building inclusive and accessible communities, with increased participation of people with a disability, their families and carers in the social, cultural, religious, recreational and sporting life of the community.

NSW 2021

NSW 2021 is the NSW Government’s 10-year plan, released in 2011, to guide policy and budget decisions and deliver on community priorities.

Goal 27 of NSW 2021 identifies a priority to develop partnerships which enhance the participation of people with a disability in arts and cultural activities and to increase professional development opportunities in the arts and cultural sector.

Skill development, which in turn may enhance employment opportunities, is also supported through increased participation in the arts. The NSW Arts and Disability Partnership also supports Goal 14 of NSW 2021 to increase participation of in out-of-home activities for people with severe and profound disabilities.

Arts NSW and Ageing, Disability and Home Care have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to deliver the NSW Arts and Disability Partnership.

Total funding of $1.5 million over two years, from 2012 to 2014, is provided under the MOU and will be managed by Arts NSW. It will fund targeted strategic initiatives. In 2012-13, the first year of the partnership, these initiatives are being delivered through the following program strands:

1. Participation by people with a disability in arts programs
   a. Arts workshops and programs for people with a disability in metropolitan and regional NSW, to be run by arts organisations with a track record of successful arts and disability projects;
   b. Education and advocacy workshops in regional NSW, to build local arts and disability networks and partnerships;

2. A funding program for the professional development of artists with a disability;
3. Information and resources to develop employment and volunteering opportunities in the arts sector for people with a disability; and
4. Documentation of programs to produce case studies and an evaluation of the impact of the strategic partnership.

Support will be available for programs and projects that cater for people with long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments.

The arrangements for the delivery of the program strands in the second year of the NSW Arts and Disability Partnership will be advised at the end of 2012.

It is anticipated that networks and partnerships developed through the NSW Arts and Disability Partnership will assist organisations to apply for funding from Arts NSW’s annual Arts Funding Program and other sources of funding.
STRAND 1A – ARTS WORKSHOPS AND PROGRAMS

Arts NSW sought proposals from arts organisations in metropolitan and regional NSW to deliver arts workshops and programs for people with a disability in 2012-13. These organisations are identified in the MOU between Arts NSW and ADHC as having a track record in delivering high quality professional arts programs for people with a disability. These organisations were selected to submit proposals under Strand 1a following an audit of arts and disability projects and programs funded by Arts NSW in 2011.


A second round of grants under Strand 1a in the next financial year is expected to be via an open grants program for organisations.

The 2012 arts workshops and programs will develop participants’ skills in a professional art form or across art forms and may include:

- Entry level workshops/programs for new participants;
- Enhancement of existing successful workshops/programs, to give participants greater access to the professional arts community and its networks;
- Exploring new ideas or processes in arts and disability practice;
- Creative development of new work;
- Presentation of a work in progress;
- Presentation of a completed work.

Strand 1a aims to build capacity in arts organisations in metropolitan and regional NSW to increase engagement with the arts by people with a disability by:

- Increasing the number of people with a disability participating in new arts workshops and programs;
Increasing places for people with a disability in existing successful arts workshops and programs;
Supporting the delivery of high quality professional arts workshops and programs;
Encouraging new collaborations;
Supporting the development of professional arts and disability companies.

STRAND 1B – EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY WORKSHOPS IN REGIONAL NSW

Strand 1b of the NSW Arts and Disability Partnership in 2012 is a project to develop and conduct a series of “road shows” that will bring together arts organisations and disability service organisations in regional NSW. The project will be co-ordinated by Regional Arts NSW (RANSW), in collaboration with Accessible Arts. RANSW is the peak organisation for regional arts activity. It represents a network of Regional Arts Boards through advocacy, capacity-building communications and support.

Strand 1b is to be delivered in the second half of 2012.

Strand 1b aims to:

- Build capacity and expertise in arts organisations and disability service organisations in regional NSW to deliver high quality professional arts workshops and programs for people with a disability in regional NSW;
- Encourage organisations to strengthen professional networks in the arts and disability service sectors and community networks;
- Encourage new collaborations and partnerships between arts organisations and disability service organisations in regional NSW.

STRAND 2 – A FUNDING PROGRAM FOR THE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF ARTISTS WITH A DISABILITY

Strand 2 of the NSW Arts and Disability Partnership in 2012 is a program to provide funding to NSW artists with a disability who want to develop their professional artistic practice.
Strand 2 aims to:

- Assist artists with a disability to develop their professional artistic careers;
- Assist artists with a disability to compete for funding in general arts funding programs.

Grants will be for the costs associated with improving professional practice as an artist. This could include specific skills or professional development opportunities, professional fees, travel, training or mentoring. The focus will be on career development, rather than producing art works.

Strand 2 will be delivered by Accessible Arts in the 2012-13 financial year. Information on how to apply for this funding will be available on the Arts NSW and Accessible Arts websites later this year.

STRAND 3 – INFORMATION AND RESOURCES TO DEVELOP EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN THE ARTS SECTOR FOR PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY

Strand 3 of the NSW Arts and Disability Partnership in 2012 is a project to develop information and resources that will assist state cultural institutions and state-significant arts organisations in NSW to identify and create employment opportunities for people with a disability.

The project is to be delivered in the 2012-13 financial year by the Australian Network on Disability, the peak national organisation that works to advance the inclusion of people with a disability in business.

Strand 3 aims to:

- Build capacity and expertise in state cultural institutions and state-significant arts organisations to employ people with a disability;
- Encourage state cultural institutions and state-significant arts organisations to strengthen
professional networks in the arts and disability service sectors and community networks.

Employment opportunities for people with a disability may include opportunities in administrative, technical and/or creative roles.

**STRAND 4 – DOCUMENTATION OF PROGRAMS TO PRODUCE CASE STUDIES AND AN EVALUATION OF THE IMPACT OF THE NSW ARTS AND DISABILITY PARTNERSHIP**

Programs and projects funded under the *NSW Arts and Disability Partnership* may be included in case studies or other evaluations to be conducted by Arts NSW and ADHC on the benefits of the partnership to people with a disability and the arts and disability sectors in NSW.

Documentation of individual programs and projects will contribute to exemplar case studies for the disability and arts sectors. The case studies will be resources for organisations to develop arts and disability programs and to find additional support.

External evaluation of the impact on the social and community networks of participants in the programs will result in a publication to assist in establishing and promoting the social benefit of the *NSW Arts and Disability Partnership*. 

Participants in the Bodylines Ensemble 2010 at Shopfront contemporary arts centre for under 25s. Photographer: Sarah Emery
If you have questions about the *NSW Arts and Disability Partnership* that are not answered in this document, please contact:

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To make a National Relay Service call:

Type and read, type and listen, or speak and read  
133 677 or 1800 555 677 to call a toll-free 1800 number

Speak and listen  
(speech to speech relay)  
1300 555 727 or 1800 555 727 to call a toll-free 1800 number

Arts NSW, July 2012