



MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday, 5 June 2008

Arts and Disability Forum in Orange

Arts OutWest and Accessible Arts NSW will host a forum on arts and disability on **Monday June 30 at Orange Civic Theatre.**

Anyone interested in the topics of arts and disability, arts and mental illness and arts and dementia are encouraged to participate in this free event. It is hoped that the forum will be attended by health workers, artists, arts and cultural workers, service providers, students, teachers, council staff and venue operators.

Alison McLaren, Audience Development Officer for Accessible Arts, will facilitate a 'Speak Up' session. The 'Speak Up' session will identify arts and disability projects in the region and ways in which Arts OutWest, local communities and Accessible Arts can increase access for people with disabilities to the arts – as both audiences and participants.

The day will also include a gallery tour of the Orange Regional Gallery and an inspirational choir performance by The Symptomatics.

Those working in the arts and disability field will also have the chance to share their works and projects. Those with a story, program or examples of work to share, are asked to let Arts OutWest know when they register so that they can be included in the program.

This will be an exciting opportunity to set the agenda for future arts and disability initiatives for the Central West region.

The forum is supported by the NSW Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care (DADHC) and Orange City Council and will run **10am-4pm, Monday June 30** in the foyer of the Orange Civic Theatre. Lunch will be provided.

To register contact Arts OutWest by phone: 6338 4657 or email: artsoutwest@csu.edu.au by Friday June 20.

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Notes:

Venue access: The venue is wheelchair accessible with direct access from the car park where there are 3 wheelchair accessible spaces (1 directly outside the Theatre and a couple outside the Library). A wheelchair accessible toilet is also available.

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Arts OutWest services the local government areas of Bathurst Region, Blayney, Cabonne, Cowra, Forbes, Lachlan, Lithgow, Mid-Western Region, Oberon, Orange, Parkes, Wellington and is supported by Arts NSW.