



MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday July 9

Arts and Disability Forum in Orange

On Monday June 30, the Central West Arts and Disability Forum was held at the Orange Civic Theatre.

The Forum was conducted in order to identify needs and issues within the region for arts and disability services, and discuss plans for future arts and disability projects.

Over 60 people from across the Central-West region attended the forum including artists, carers, volunteers, service providers, students, teachers, council staff, venue operators and those interested in arts and disability.

Alison McLaren, Audience Development Officer for Accessible Arts facilitated a 'Speak Up' session where attendees were divided up into groups to discuss and share ideas about what Arts OutWest, local communities and Accessible Arts can do in the future in order to make the arts more accessible to people with disabilities.

Attendees were provided with the opportunity to discuss the arts and disability projects they had been involved in within the region.

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

Some of the issues identified during the day included: media attention to the creativity of people with disabilities, funding, a lack of resources and arts venues for those with disabilities, a lack of support volunteers, accessibility to transport, the need to network, and a need for education about arts and disability.

Arts OutWest will follow up on some of the needs and issues identified by those who attended the Forum.

Hannah Semler Executive Officer of Arts OutWest said that: "The day was considered a huge success in bringing people together from the arts and disability areas and discussing how we can make the arts more accessible to people with a disability."

The forum was organised by Arts OutWest and Accessible Arts NSW and supported by the NSW Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care (DADHC) and Orange City Council.

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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.