

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Friday, 1 August 2008



# **Arts Funding available for International Day of People with a Disability events**

Councils, community, disability, health and arts organisations in the central west are encouraged to apply for funding for Arts-based events linked to the International Day of People with a Disability 2008.

The International Day of People with a Disability (IDPWD) will be celebrated this year on and around December 3. The day provides a great opportunity to increase access for people with a disability to the arts and raise public awareness of disability and access issues in our communities.

Accessible Arts NSW are offering up to \$500 per organisation to assist in putting on arts programs and activities for the day. These grants have been made possible with the support of the NSW Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care. To be eligible for the funding, groups must first register their event online at [www.internationaldayofpeoplewithadisability.com.au](http://www.internationaldayofpeoplewithadisability.com.au). The cut off for registrations is Monday September 1.

Arts OutWest will help promote and support all IDPWD events under the banner of 'Celebrate Ability in the Central West', building on highly successful past programs.

Highlights of the 2007 International Day of People with a Disability included a popular printmaking workshop and a photography exhibition at Cowra Regional Art Gallery as well as art exhibitions, music programs, craft days and gallery tours throughout the region.

Arts OutWest hosted a Central West Arts and Disability Forum in Orange recently. The forum attracted over 60 artists, health and disability workers and councils staff. The day drew out priority issues around access to the arts for people with a disability, such as funding and resources for arts and disability projects and the need to promote the creativity of people with disabilities. The Celebrate Ability in the Central West campaign and IDPWD funding are strategies for addressing these issues.

For more information contact Arts OutWest on 6338 4657 or Josie Cavallaro at Accessible Arts on 02 8002 2353 (ext 4).

**Funding applications and event registrations close Monday September 1.**

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*Image attached: T Pascoe, G Simpson and M Macalister at the Printsapes workshop at Cowra Regional Art Gallery in 2007. Credit: Cowra Regional Art Gallery.*

*Images from the Central West Arts and Disability Forum also available.*