

MEDIA RELEASE

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Hannah Semler leaves Executive Officer position at Arts OutWest after seven years



After seven years as the Executive Officer of Arts OutWest, the regional arts board of central west NSW, Hannah Semler hangs up her hat this Friday 14th November.

Hannah, who moved to the region to take on Executive Office position in 2001, has accepted a new role with the ACT Government developing a new arts centre in Belconnen.

“Canberra’s gain is the Central West’s loss” said Arts OutWest Chair, Brandon Wilson, “Hannah has been a singular driver of Arts OutWest over the past seven years. She has been a wonderful ambassador for all the Arts in the community and a great colleague.”

“The people and communities of the central west region are incredibly dedicated and committed to all the areas of the arts, to community well-being and to social justice” said Ms Semler.

“The colleagues and the Board I have worked with, the skills and experience I gained and the friendships that were established across the region have been wonderful and made my job so interesting and enjoyable. I feel privileged to have been a part of it all and wish Arts OutWest and the communities of the region all the best with the future.” Said Ms Semler.

In her time in the role Hannah Semler has overseen many changes in the organisation, in the region and the funding arrangements. Orana Arts was formed to include Dubbo and the then Coolah Shire, reducing the footprint of the Arts OutWest region. State Government and Local Councils have become committed to triennial funding support. The Board has moved from a general membership based one to a largely appointed one with representatives from each contributing local government.

Meeting the needs of the region as a whole has seen Hannah Semler together with the Arts OutWest Board drive the development of a new Strategic Plan and the establishment of a number of key partnerships and recurring regional

projects. These include amongst others the partnerships with Greater Western Area Health Service to establish the pilot Arts and Health Project at the redeveloped Bathurst Health Service, and with Orange City Council, the biennial In SITE Out ephemeral art event at Orange Botanic Gardens.

The Executive Officer position will be advertised from Wednesday 19 Nov and close on Tuesday 9th December 2008. Information will also be available on the Arts OutWest website www.artsoutwest.org.au

Former Communications Officer Tracy Sorensen will be Acting Executive Officer in the interim.

ENDS

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