

MEDIA RELEASE



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Country Arts Support Program funding now available

Arts OutWest is encouraging local community groups with arts projects in mind to apply for the 2010 round of Country Arts Support Program funding.

The State Government's Country Arts Support Program (CASP) provides small grants to arts and community organisations in regional NSW for locally initiated projects.

Applications for 2010 funding close February 12, 2010.

"Whilst the pool of funding is a small one, the funds are a valuable way to kick start local, on-the-ground arts projects," said Arts OutWest Executive Officer Tracey Callinan.

The program aims to increase access for regional people to a diverse range of arts programs, for communities to work together to explore and express their cultural identities, and to bring social and economic benefits to the community through training, employment and promotional activities.

CASP grants are for small amounts of money - typically between \$500 to \$1500 - and are available primarily to cover professional artist's fees, travel and accommodation.

Priority areas for CASP funding in the Central West in 2010 include projects in small towns or communities; projects by groups not previously funded; and projects in the areas of indigenous arts, youth arts, arts and health and the creative industries.

"The Central West always has a high number and quality of applications – much higher than other parts of the state and far more than can be funded each year - but yet, there is always room for new projects and ideas. We really encourage groups who've not received or applied for funding before to give us a call and talk about CASP," said Arts OutWest Executive Officer Tracey Callinan.

Some of the projects funded in the past have included drama workshops, community sculpture making classes, tours of local theatre, artist-in-residence programs, exhibitions and other local arts initiatives.

Groups in Central West NSW wishing to apply for the funding should read the guidelines carefully and *must* discuss their project with Arts OutWest before submitting an application.

The Country Arts Support Program of Regional Arts NSW is funded by the NSW Government through Arts NSW.

Download the funding criteria from www.regionalartsnsw.com.au/grants/grants.htm and contact Arts OutWest on 02 6338 4657 or email artsoutwest@csu.edu.au

Closing date 12 February 2010
For projects starting on or after April 12, 2010



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For a list of projects funded by CASP in Central West NSW is 2009 got to:

http://www.regionalartsnsw.com.au/news/09_04_casp_full_list.html