MEDIA RELEASE

May 2016

Arts & Health: Making the Connections

Arts and Health Forum 2016 hosted by Country Arts SA in association with the Institute for Creative Health

Country Arts SA, in association with the Institute of Creative Health, presents **Arts and Health: Making the Connections**, an all-day forum next month bringing arts and health practitioners together to explore ways to work together, find common ground and demonstrate the case for arts as key to healthy individuals and communities.

Event producer Jo Pike said "the intersection between arts and health is playing a rapidly growing role in the area of health and wellbeing".

"The constantly expanding body of knowledge demonstrating the positive benefits of using arts in health and community settings is bringing the two sectors together more and more often," she said. "For example, now that Local Government Public Health Plans incorporate community wellbeing objectives, councils are looking for innovative ways to deliver services within their communities and arts programs fit this bill perfectly."

Health care, community and local government workers will join artists, artworkers and researchers for the one-day forum in June to explore ways of working together to contribute to the wellbeing of the communities and individuals in their care through embedded arts programs.

Noted television, radio presenter and writer Fenella Kernebone will host two morning "conversation" sessions exploring stories which demonstrate the way in which arts has been beneficial - and in some cases transforming - for individuals in a health context, building the case for the arts as a key tool for wellbeing, illness prevention and recovery and exploring what needs to be done to facilitate cross-sector engagement.

The afternoon sessions will enable participants to experience first-hand the activities they could employ in their work, and to explore more deeply work currently being carried out in the field.

Guests include Professor John Coveney, Dean of Health Sciences at Flinders University, and the University of Melbourne's Professor Jane Davidson plus practitioners and researchers working in hospital programs, community arts, art therapy, public space and aged care.

"Finding the common ground between the many types of practice which employ arts for health and wellbeing will enable us all to better champion the same cause. We need to find the focus points that

can bring about significant and lasting transformation to communities in order to help change the way governments view the delivery of these types of services," Ms Pike said.

"We have assembled a program that demonstrates investing in this rapidly growing sector will reap happier and healthier communities into the future."

Country Arts SA is one of South Australia's largest arts organisations, providing arts and services across regional South Australia through a range of arts programs and initiatives, the management of performing and visual arts venues, and the provision of grant funding which supports the creative endeavours of communities and individuals.

When: Adelaide Wednesday 1 June 9:30am – 5:00pm
Where: The Science Exchange, 55 Exchange Place, Adelaide
Cost: $50 (includes morning tea and lunch)
Full program details and registration information available at www.countryarts.org.au

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COUNTRY ARTS SA

The Institute for Creative Health
Proving that arts contribute to health and wellbeing