



Australian Government

Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

MEDIA RELEASE

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ARTS PROJECTS FUNDED ACROSS REGIONAL AUSTRALIA

Ninety-seven regional arts projects around Australia have been funded under the Regional Arts Fund with more than \$800,000 so that local communities can deliver rich, diverse and inclusive art experiences.

Following the Government's decision in the 2008 Federal Budget, the Regional Arts Fund will now be an ongoing program with funding amounting to \$11.8 million over the four years until 2011–12.

This ongoing funding will give greater certainty to Australia's regional arts community, providing continuing support for a great range of cultural activities across the country.

Highlights of the current funding round include a puppetry workshop in Tasmania for junior artists, and an ambitious performance that brings Thursday Island's historic links with Japan to light.

Other successful projects include:

- *Weave and Mend*—accomplished artists from the central desert will share their sculptural weaving mastery with weavers and community participants from Aurukun, aiming to establish the future of contemporary weaving in the region.
- *Body and Soul*—adults with a disability in the Barossa Valley in South Australia will work with a poet, songwriter and visual artist to develop a performance for this year's South Australian Living Artists Week Festival
- *Resurrect*—an artist-in-residence program in Western Australia, based in the Albany landfill site, where participants will make instruments and artworks and create a soundscape on themes of recycling and the environment, and
- *Dust*—a new performance work in Victoria celebrating the resilience of sufferers of asbestos-related diseases.

The Australian Government's Regional Arts Fund encourages and supports sustainable, community-related cultural development in regional, remote and isolated communities in Australia. Visit www.regionalarts.com.au and www.arts.gov.au/arts/regional_arts_fund

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