

MEDIA RELEASE
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Fair Play Regional Victoria Symposium wraps up year-long program, showcasing equity and inclusion successes in Regional Victoria

Diversity Arts Australia, supported by core funding and additional support from Creative Victoria, successfully held the day-long Fair Play Symposium to mark the completion of the 2023 Fair Play Regional Victoria program. Delivered to 11 council-owned and operated arts and cultural venues throughout regional Victoria, supported venues through training, mentorship and the writing of equity action plans.

The Fair Play Symposium brought together representatives from the participating organisations alongside other regional organisations, partners, and creative industry representatives.

The Fair Play Regional Victoria Program, a year-long initiative, focused on enhancing diversity and inclusion capacities among regional Victorian arts venues funded through Creative Victoria's Regional Partnerships Program. It aimed to overcome participation barriers faced by underrepresented groups in the state's creative sectors, particularly focusing on First Nations people, People with Disability, and individuals from underrepresented Culturally and Linguistically Diverse backgrounds. The program is a collaborative effort, involving partnerships with Koorie Heritage Trust, Arts Access Victoria, Public Galleries Association of Victoria, Victorian Association of Performing Arts Centres, and Regional Arts Victoria.

“We are so proud of the Fair Play program, and we thoroughly enjoyed adapting it for delivery to a regional Victorian venues context. There was an openness from the organisations who joined the program, as well as great support from Creative Victoria and our other project partners. We worked with organisations and supported each to develop equity action plans, to undertake equity audits and also provided bespoke training and mentorship. Congratulations to the venues who undertook this rigorous program!” said Diversity Arts CEO Lena Nahlous.

In addition to celebrating the 12-month program's graduates, the one-day Fair Play Regional Victoria Symposium featured industry talks, performances, and interactive activities. Some of the speakers included Rodney Carter, Djaara Traditional Owner and DJAARA CEO; Cr Matthew Evans, Deputy Mayor, City of Bendigo; Emma King, Nalderun Education Aboriginal Corporation; Dr Margaret Mayhew, Arts Access Victoria; Dominic Golding, Policy Officer, National Ethnic Disability Alliance. Panel discussions also took place, featuring Loddon Campaspe Multicultural Services, Arena Theatre, and Bendigo Art Gallery.

One of the key highlights of the symposium included insights from recent and former program graduates sharing their transformative experiences. "The whole experience of undertaking the Fair Play training has been amazing. I feel so fortunate to have been able to learn directly from so many people with lived experience and continue that ongoing conversation," said Nathalie Atherden, COPACC Operations Coordinator.

The event also included engaging activities such as the Arena Theatre's 'Three Headed Monster Activity,' aimed at sparking creative discussions on equitable arts in the regions.

Testimonials from Participants:

- Margaret Mayhew, Fair Play Mentor and Specialist Projects Associate at Arts Access Victoria, expressed, "This was an absolute delight to participate in. Fantastic to see the innovative work in genuine inclusion in Regional Victorian arts organisations. Congratulations to Diversity Arts Australia for making this possible."*

The event was graciously supported by The Capital, funded by Creative Victoria, and delivered across 2023 in partnership with LGA-owned and operated galleries and performing arts centres. Diversity Arts receives core funding from Creative Australia and Create NSW. Key project and training partners include: Koorie Heritage Trust and Arts Access Victoria.





*Image description: Fair Play Regional Victoria Symposium - 16 November 2023
Image credit: Mitch Nivalis for Diversity Arts Australia.*

ABOUT DIVERSITY ARTS AUSTRALIA

Diversity Arts Australia (DARTS) is Australia's national voice for ethnocultural and migrant racial equity in the arts, cultural and creative industries. Our work is underpinned by a human-rights ethic, social justice principles, and the belief that a diverse spectrum of creative expression and participation is fundamental to a democratic, inclusive and sustainable creative sector, and society.

More information

For enquiries, email communications@diversityarts.org.au

Note to Editors:

Photos and additional materials available upon request.