



Despite the fact that 1993 is only half over, Arts Access has developed a wide range of programs and initiatives throughout the community. In all three areas of Arts Access work - the Artistic Program, the Entertainment Access Service, and the Resource Unit - the range of participant groups, projects, information, training, advocacy and consultation has expanded the scope of Arts Access' work not only within Victoria, but nationally and internationally.

Entertainment Access Service (EASE)

Since its inception in 1987, EASE has grown enormously and will this year distribute close to 20,000 tickets. This growth has highlighted the need for the service to strategically assess its activities and directions for 1993 and beyond. Support through the Recreation Development Fund of Sport and Recreation Victoria is assisting the service to establish its ongoing viability. Strategies are also being developed to link EASE to major ticketing agencies and to secure further support from the mainstream arts industry. Throughout 1993, EASE's advocacy role is being further extended through the development of disability awareness training and information seminars for entertainment industry staff. Venue assessments are also continuing, as is the advice and information provided to venue managements for improving access and facilities.

The Arts Access Resource Unit

In 1993, the heart of the Unit, the Resource Centre is being assessed in the context of a proposal that the Centre and its collection be developed as a national repository for information and resources on the arts related to disability and disadvantage. The collection of audio visual and printed materials is already recognised as being of national significance.

The Unit's Training and Advocacy Program is a focus of activity in 1993. Demand for the Unit's training workshops for agency staff, artists, other professionals and volunteers has been strong, with each workshop being booked out soon after advertising. There are plans for publication of an information package outlining artforms that can be used for community arts activities.

A capital works program has been completed on the Arts Access Studio, a low cost multi-purpose space within Arts Access' offices in South Melbourne. A successful publicity campaign has increased useage of the Studio, which now offers better exhibition facilities to hirers.

The Artistic Program

In 1993 the artistic Program will manage some 50 projects. Selected highlights of the program to date are:

A second Health & Community Services (Victoria) funded Creative Arts Program, established in late 1992 is now energetically providing a variety of arts workshops for people with intellectual disabilities, based at community venues in the H&CS North /North West regions. A focus of the program in 1993 is to work with local community groups to expand the range of integrated arts options in the regions.

The Werribee Youth Arts Program is a major program running throughout 1993, involving disadvantaged young people from the Werribee municipality in exciting arts workshops whilst forging links with local youth support agencies. The program is a partnership between Arts Access, the City of Werribee and the Commonwealth Department of Health Housing & Community Services.

The Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Project will equip young people who have Myalgic Encephalitis (ME - commonly known as Chronic Fatigue Syndrome) with the skills and support needed to produce a video that will explore issues for young people with ME/CFS and promote support networks.

Environmental design has emerged as an art form with great potential for Arts Access projects. Following the success of a project at Turana in 1992, the current Turana Youth Training Centre Project is being mounted on a significant scale as a major part of the redevelopment of the Turana site. Working with a professional landscape architect and designer and centre staff, the trainees will create site-specific artworks and permanent facilities including an amphitheatre.

An environmental design project is also planned for the second half of 1993 with Malmsbury Youth Remand Centre trainees and staff, whilst a visual arts project will be undertaken with trainees at Parkville Youth Training Centre.

The Melbourne Metropolitan Reception Prison Project is a multi-media arts program with long-term male prisoners. In the first stage a mural will be created in the recently constructed activities centre.

Arts Access continues to develop projects within the public health sector, including hospitals and with self-help and support groups. The Healthy Arts Project, is a nationally significant initiative that aims to stimulate hospitals and health professionals to initiate and develop self-sustaining arts programs within the public health system. An educational package will be distributed to hospitals and arts organisations throughout Australia and internationally during the second half of 1993.

An exemplary public health project involved in-patients, family, friends and staff of the Royal Melbourne Hospital Oncology Unit, who created a brilliant textile based on a 'tree of life' theme early in 1993.

The ongoing support of Health and Community Services (Victoria) has enabled Arts Access to develop a range of projects with people with psychiatric disabilities,

including a popular series of **Saturday Morning Art Classes**.

The **Poetry Project** involves two terms of workshops focussed on creative writing and poetry, targeting residents with psychiatric disabilities in Fitzroy and Collingwood.

The **Southern Community Mental Health Services (SCMHS) Project** will develop a textile work with local women with psychiatric disability who are socially isolated.

Ten men attending the **Young Street Psychiatric Clinic** will collaborate with a professional musician in workshops on composition, song writing and recording, leading to a final performance presentation.

The **Supported Residential Services (SRS) Project**. In 1993 the project co-ordinator will continue to develop networks with service agencies in the St.Kilda/South Melbourne area where 20 SRS houses are located and is planning two specific arts and environment projects in collaboration with residents, local agencies and artists.

The **Disability Issues & Puppetry Research Project** is being developed in conjunction with Playworks, a key Victorian agency supporting and promoting the inclusion of children with disabilities in local childcare services. The project will examine the use of puppet theatre as a creative medium for increasing the awareness of integration in Victorian childcare centres.

Trainee Arts Project Officer

A training position providing an opportunity for a member of the Koori community to develop a range of arts administration and management skills. In 1993 the trainee will be involved in specific arts projects with a range of Koori communities.

National Networking

Over the last two years Arts Access has played an important role in the development of a national network of organisations and individuals, (DADAA) Disability in the Arts, Disadvantage in the Arts Australia. Arts access involvement is continuing in 1993 and will see us take on a co-ordinating role for the national network. Locally, Arts Access is working with the Victorian DADAA Committee to map the range of arts bias people with disabilities and people disadvantaged by social conditions.

China Cultural Exchange Development Program

In March 1993 Arts Access' Executive Director and Program Manager toured China to begin discussions for the development of a cultural exchange program with Jilin and Jiangsu provinces. Consultations with the Chinese Federation of Disabled People and provincial disability and arts organisations revealed great interest in proposals for an artist-in-residency exchange, workshops, conferences and touring exhibitions of works from Chinese and Australian artists with disabilities. Arts

Access' visit was funded by the Community Cultural Development Board of the Australia Council.

Artistic Projects in development include:

Arradale: A pilot program involving a number of art forms with people with intellectual disabilities resident at the Arradale Training Centre at Arrarat in Western Victoria. The program will aim to equip staff and the local community to continue to support and develop arts activities for the most severely disabled residents at the completion of the program.

Open Family: A multi-arts program with homeless or 'at-risk' young people in contact with the Open Family's Youth Bus Service. The project will create arts activities that develop communication and living skills, encouraging fulfilment outside common patterns of drug-use, social isolation and conflict.

Italian Women: An arts program developed in conjunction with Co-As-It, an Italian assistance association, with older Italo-Australian women living in the Lalor area, many of whom have psychiatric disabilities or are socially isolated.

Northcote Day Centre: A creative movement, music and drama program with elderly, isolated and/or disabled clients of the Centre culminating in a community presentation.

Sensory Exhibition: A major exhibition including works by disadvantaged artists that will explore the sensory nature of the exhibits and the sensory nature of the process of experiencing art works. Although still in the early stages of development it is planned for the exhibition to tour nationally and internationally.

Art Brokerage: One of Arts Access' priorities is to assist the professional development of emerging artists disadvantaged by disability or social conditions. In 1992, Arts Access exhibition Stormy Weather, enabled local artists to market their works to the corporate sector. For 1993, Arts Access plans to further develop this concept, establishing an art brokerage service that will market disadvantaged artists works to the buying public.

Pleasant View: Following a number of successful arts programs with this agency of Drug Services Victoria, the research project will examine the role of the arts in drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs, looking at the impact of arts programs on participants, artists and rehabilitation centre staff.

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