

# DADAA

## Disability in the Arts/Disadvantaged in the Arts

**DISABILITY IN THE ARTS/DISADVANTAGED IN THE ARTS AUSTRALIA (DADAA)** is a group of artists/art workers who represent the states and territories of Australia.

Its members are representatives from those groups who work towards artistic empowerment and filling the creative needs of people with disabilities - that is **ACCESS ARTS**, **ACCESSIBLE ARTS** and **ARTS ACCESS** to name a few. All the current members attended a meeting in Melbourne in July. They all work with people with disabilities and three have disabilities. The inaugural meeting was held in late 1990.

This group was formed to facilitate and maintain a responsive national overview of the trends in the arts for those experiencing disadvantage or a disability.

The members of **DADAA** wish to establish a group that is in touch with what is happening in these fields so the collective wisdom of people working with these groups can become a respected cohesive voice in planning and decision making. **DADAA** believes that people experiencing disabilities or disadvantage contribute positively to the community. Everyone benefits from the vitality of integration.

**DADAA** wants to act as an advisory body to the government sector and our experience will make sure that the hard-won arts dollars can be directed effectively. Experience in project and program design is well represented amongst member groups, who will be much better off if we all are aware of what's going on (and down) across Australia, especially what the funding bodies are up to!

In the current climate of dwindling funds from the government sector there is an urgent need for **DADAA** to be established. The seeking of public sector funding is paramount. A flexible and responsible 'face' of the groups that we represent will make funding of the arts attractive to business and worthwhile to those we represent.

All this talk, but **ACTION** is what it's really about. We have had national phone link-ups in the past and there is another one soon. Coming up in October is our National Conference in Brisbane. As a state rep

for **DADAA** I'm trying to organise a state-wide phone link-up that is scheduled for May 11th at 1pm. Input from regional areas is so very important. Art is for everyone and **DADAA** needs to know the complete picture ... so if you're interested let's get together on the 11th. Please contact us here at **ACCESSIBLE ARTS** if you are interested.

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### THE PHILOSOPHY AND AIMS OF DADAA

#### PHILOSOPHY

We believe that :

- everyone has an innate creative ability.
- it is a human right to have access to & respect for people's creativity through artistic expression.
- the arts can be an effective means of positive social change.
- people with disabilities & disadvantage have a right to self determination of the form & means of their own creative expression.
- people with disabilities & disadvantage have creative potential which can contribute to an enriched society.
- people with disabilities & disadvantage have a right to participate fully in the cultural life of the community.

#### AIMS

- to empower people experiencing disability or disadvantage to determine their own participation in the arts.
- to maintain & develop national arts & disability networks.
- to promote at a national level:
  - access to the arts
  - achievements in the arts by people with disabilities & disadvantage.
- to lobby government & relevant organisations for the rights & support needs in the arts of people experiencing disabilities or disadvantage.

PS: Don't forget the  
tele-conference  
1pm May 11th