

Community Organisations Awarded Grants to Run Inclusive Community Choirs

Five community organisations around Australia have this week received seed funding grants to implement inclusive community choirs.

The recipients - Cobaw Community Health in **Kyneton VIC**, Redlink in **Redfern NSW**, Hub4Health in **St Helens TAS**, Woodside Energy in **Perth** and UFS Dispensaries in **Ballarat** – will establish inclusive community choirs open to all community members, regardless of whether or not they have singing experience or ability.

The grants are part of the *With One Voice* movement and are awarded by Creativity Australia, a non-profit organisation that uses singing to strengthen communities and build bridges between people from all walks of life.

With One Voice has over 600 choir members aged nine to 90 years old in 21 volunteer-lead choirs across Australia, with membership growing weekly and a further 10 choir expected to have launched by mid 2019.

Tania de Jong, Founder and CEO of Creativity Australia and celebrated soprano singer and social entrepreneur, said the new choirs will create positive impact in their communities.

“Neuroscience proves that singing makes people happier, healthier, smarter and more creative, and when we come together in song, we start to see rates of loneliness, depression and anxiety decreasing. We can’t wait to see these five communities positively impacted by their new *With One Voice* choirs,” she said.

There are no auditions to join the choirs, everyone is welcome regardless of age, life situation, first language, culture or ability. In addition to meeting weekly to rehearse, the choir also shares supper together and implements a ‘Wish List’ initiative whereby choir members can request or grant wishes to one another.

Creativity Australia is on a mission to grant 10 further seed funding grants to community organisations wishing to start *With One Voice* choirs before 30 June 2019. Information can be found on the [website](#).

Photos and interview opportunities are available.

For further information, contact: Lydia Griffiths, Creativity Australia’s Program & Marketing Co-ordinator, lydia@creativityaustralia.org.au or (03) 86796088.



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