

Media Release

14 February 2016

COMMUNITY WINNERS ANNOUNCED AND ROUND TWO OF SEED FUNDING IS NOW OPEN.

Creativity Australia has awarded two communities \$10,000 grants to start their own With One Voice program to build community wellbeing and prevent social isolation. The award-winning charity has just announced Round Two of seed grants for communities all around Australia. Applications are now open and close at 5pm on 17th of March. For more information [click here](#).

The two successful communities from the first round of applications are Ginninderry – ACT and Windale, Lake Macquarie – NSW. Ginninderry is a new residential development in the West Belconnen region of the ACT. One of the key objectives for the new community is that there are strong and authentic connections with the surrounding suburbs. Centre for Hope (Windale) is a not for profit community organization. Their vision is to empower young disadvantaged Australians to respect themselves, to connect to the wider community and to create an inspired life.

These are the first two communities to set up the proven *With One Voice* program under the new social franchise model that mentors local communities to run the program themselves. “It’s a win-win because, for the local community they can build skills and networks that add to their strength and resilience, and for Creativity Australia, it is a lower-cost, scalable model that helps communities build cohesion and replicate an innovative social inclusion model” says Tania de Jong AM, Founder and Chair.

Swinburne University research showed:

98% of *With One Voice* choir participants experienced less stress

72.6% of people have improved general wellbeing as a result of attending choir

91% improved social bonds

70% gained increased understanding & appreciation of diversity. [View research](#)



Patrons

The Late Dame Elisabeth

Murdoch AC DBE

Lady Marigold Southey AC

Professor Allan Fels AO

Hugh Morgan AC

Emeritus Professor John Hay AC

Founder

Tania de Jong AM

Creativity Australia

level 1 10 Dorcas St

South Melbourne

Victoria 3205

T +613 8679 6088

enquiries@cal.org.au

www.creativityaustralia.org.au





We welcome all communities from across Australia to create a With One Voice choir. There is no limitation on who can apply to start a With One Voice program.

ENDS

About us

Loneliness, and the depression which accompanies it, is the global epidemic of our era. Creativity Australia (www.creativityaustralia.org.au) is building a happier, healthier, more inclusive nation. We bridge the gap between people experiencing disadvantage and those more fortunate through the neuro-scientific benefits of community singing. We build supportive networks that help people connect to brighter futures. Together, we can change the world... one voice at a time. Creativity Australia is a charity founded by award-winning social entrepreneur and soprano Tania de Jong AM.

Creativity Australia has been recognized as one of the top social innovations (Anthill) in Australia for the past 4 years and, received the Melbourne Award 2016 for Contribution to Community by a Community Organisation.

Creativity Australia runs a global online video challenge every year to raise funds for the With One Voice program. This joyful project has so far inspired more than 170 video entries from around the globe, generating around \$100,000 in donations. [View gallery](#) and [highlights](#) video here.

Why we sing

Neuroscience proves singing makes people happier, healthier, smarter and more creative. Through uniting more and more communities in song, Creativity Australia aims to create positive outcomes for people experiencing mental illness, disability, disadvantage, unemployment or homelessness. Please be inspired by [Creativity Australia's Founder Tania de Jong's TEDTalk](#) on 'how singing together changes the brain'.

For further information, contact:

Ross Maher
Program Director, Creativity Australia
p. 0408 317 560
e. ross@creativityaustralia.org.au

Tania de Jong
Founder and Chair, Creativity Australia
p. (03) 8679 6088
e. Tania@creativityaustralia.org.au