



Media Release

28 February 2016

\$2500 scholarships for community leaders to make our communities more inclusive and connected.

More than 60% of people in our communities have felt lonely and disconnected at some time. For people experiencing disadvantage, this number is even higher. The financial, social and individual costs to our communities are growing every day, but solutions that are genuinely inclusive and accessible are limited.

Singing for Inclusion is a training course designed in partnership with Creativity Australia and Community Music Victoria to support community choirs and the *With One Voice* social inclusion program leaders to make a difference.

“In a world that is increasingly disconnected, community singing is an incredible way to connect people, create opportunities and improve wellbeing” says Creativity Australia founder Tania de Jong AM.

“Unfortunately, true inclusivity is hard to achieve, even for the most well-meaning and committed singing leader” says Community Music Victoria Chair Jane Coker.

Social inclusion singing groups require leaders that combine the skills of social worker, community development, teacher and conductor. This is a rare combination of skills that very few people possess.

The Sing for Inclusion training course will provide critical skills for musical leaders already working in this space, and develop new leaders so more communities can benefit from the inclusive power of singing.

To make the training accessible to community singing leaders, who are often volunteers or run programs in their spare time, 25 scholarships are being awarded. This has been made possible through the generous support of the Ian Potter Foundation and The RE Ross Trust.

Leaders can apply through either Creativity Australia (www.creativityaustralia.org.au) or Community Music Victoria (www.cmvic.org.au) at their respective websites.

ENDS



About Creativity Australia

Loneliness, and the depression which accompanies it, is the global epidemic of our era. Creativity Australia 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 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 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](#).

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.

www.creativityaustralia.org.au

About the *With One Voice* Program

Swinburne University research showed:

- 98% of *With One Voice* choir participants experienced less stress
- 73% 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](#)

About Community Music Victoria

Community Music Victoria (CMVic) is a not-for-profit, membership-based association that supports, promotes and facilitates music-making among Victorian communities. CMVic's vision is for high quality participatory music-making experiences to be available to all Victorians, and our mission is to facilitate the development of the skills, opportunities and networks necessary to bring this about. CMVic envisages a society that has music-making as a natural and assumed part of Australian daily life and as a key component for happy, healthy, socially-connected living.

www.cmvic.org.au

For further information, contact:

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

Jane Coker
Chair, Community Music Victoria
p. 03 9662 1162
e. jane.coker@bigpond.com

Creativity Australia

level 1 10 Dorcas St
South Melbourne
Victoria 3205

T +613 8679 6088
enquiries@cal.org.au
www.creativityaustralia.org.au



Creativity Australia
level 1 10 Dorcas St
South Melbourne
Victoria 3205

T +613 8679 6088
enquiries@cal.org.au
www.creativityaustralia.org.au