

- **Are you a community mover and shaker?**
- **Are you passionate about community wellbeing and the arts?**
- **Do you want to create meaningful change and a more fair and caring society?**

Round Six of the *With One Voice* Social Franchise Start Up fund is open for applications until the 1<sup>st</sup> of June.

Local community groups, social businesses and not-for-profits wanting to promote social inclusion and tackle loneliness, isolation and disadvantage in their community are invited to apply. In addition, each successful application gains access to a 12-month intensive mentoring program.

Successful community organisations to receive seed grants to start up new *With One Voice* programs include:

- *The “Bridge”* Werribee Baptist Church from Victoria, and
- *LHAC (Let’s Have a Chat) Inc.* from Queensland’s Gold Coast.
- *New Horizons* from Chatswood Sydney

All successful Start-up Grant communities diverse in culture and nationality and seek to redress balance between those that have and have not. They all provide crucial interventions for all people and support to those directly and indirectly affected by many of life’s challenges.

Most importantly, these organisations recognise how singing in a group can be transformative, inspire personal growth and create community wellbeing and inclusion. They each presented a strong social franchise offer that will be successful and sustainable. The choirs will create new social connections and extend opportunities for people of all ages and backgrounds living in these multi-cultural communities to participate and develop new skills and employment and improve wellbeing.

Founder & CEO of Centre for Hope in Windale, Geraldine Moran, says “*With One Voice* perfectly encapsulates the unity we want to create for our community. Mentoring is such a powerful tool, and through the *With One Voice* mentoring program we are learning quickly, safely and in a supported manner.” [View member stories.](#)

The *With One Voice* family is growing – please consider joining us in song and changing the world – one voice at a time.

For more information and to apply for a place in the *With One Voice* Start Up project, visit [www.creativityaustralia.org.au/start](http://www.creativityaustralia.org.au/start)

ENDS

**Creativity Australia**  
Level 1, 10 Dorcas St  
South Melbourne  
Victoria 3205

T +613 8679 6088  
[withonevoice@creativityaustralia.org.au](mailto:withonevoice@creativityaustralia.org.au)  
[www.creativityaustralia.org.au](http://www.creativityaustralia.org.au)



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**Founder**

Tania de Jong AM

## About us

Creativity Australia ([www.creativityaustralia.org.au](http://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.

## 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'.

## The impact of loneliness and depression on our health

Research has found that lacking social connections is as damaging to our health as smoking 15 cigarettes a day and people experiencing social isolation have an average of 29% increased mortality (Holt-Lunstad, 2010 & 2015). Furthermore, 8 in 10 Australians think our society is becoming lonelier, while 6 in 10 say they often feel lonely (Lifeline 2016).

## With One Voice Social Franchise

Creativity Australia is passionate about nurturing communities across Australia and beyond to sing together in the spirit of joy, wellbeing and inspiration. We are therefore delighted to offer a suite of *With One Voice* "how to" guide videos, resources and mentoring for individuals, groups and communities looking to start new, inclusive *With One Voice* choirs using our innovative social franchise model. We have also commenced a Conductor Development Program and have developed a *With One Voice* Start-up Fund to provide small grants to enable community leaders from around Australia to commence programs and replicate our model.

## Our impact

Swinburne University evaluation showed 98% of *With One Voice* choir participants experienced less stress, 91% improved social bonds, 66% felt less depressed, 70% gained new skills for work life and 70% gained increased understanding & appreciation of diversity.

Creativity Australia received the 2016 Melbourne Award for our Contribution to the Community. The program has also been named in Anthill's SMART 100 most innovative organisations for the past 5 years.

## For further information, contact:

Nathan Lange  
**Program Director, Creativity Australia**  
p. 03 8679 6088 m. 0435 722 622  
e. [nathan@creativityaustralia.org.au](mailto:nathan@creativityaustralia.org.au)

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

Visit [www.creativityaustralia.org.au](http://www.creativityaustralia.org.au)