



Arts Access Australia

Annual Report 2018



Cover Image Description

Image title: Performers from Connect2Culture celebrate at Meeting Place 2019 **Location:** Araluen Arts Centre, Alice Springs

Credit: Olive Eclipse Photography

Description: Tiffany Malthouse (left) and Lizzy T (far right) from Connect2Culture celebrate following their performance.

1.0 About us

Arts Access Australia (AAA) is the national peak body for arts and disability in Australia. We work to increase national and international opportunities and access to the arts for people with disability as artists, arts-workers, participants and audiences.

Established in 1992, AAA is a disability-led company limited by guarantee. Our CEO and at least 50% of our board members identify as a person with disability.

AAA provides three main services:

- Information and Advice
- Research and Development
- Leadership and Advocacy

AAA adopts an inclusive approach and works across all disability types, all age groups, all art forms and across all states and territories of Australia.

Our members include state-based arts and disability organisations, individual artists, arts-workers and arts leaders with disability; and others within the wider arts and cultural sector who share our vision of full and equal opportunity for cultural participation and contribution by all Australians.

Arts Access Australia is supported by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body.



2.0 From the Chairperson

2018 was a remarkable year for Arts Access Australia and we are proud to present this annual report detailing what we have achieved over the past twelve months to increase opportunities and access to the arts for people with disability.

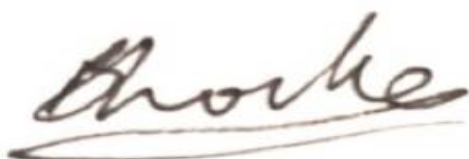
Highlights have included presenting our signature event Meeting Place in the heart of Australia in Alice Springs, welcoming international delegates from Germany for the second stage of the Aus-Berlin exchange, increased opportunities for individual artists with disability through the launch of our Travel Scholarships program, leadership of the NDIS working group, and our partnership with Diverswerks on the National Arts and Disability Strategy review.

On behalf of my fellow Board members, I would like to express our sincere gratitude to Australia Council for the Arts for their continued support, and to all of the organisations and individuals who have enabled our efforts this year to be the success they have been.

I would like to acknowledge the extraordinary contribution made by former Chairperson Mallika Macleod, who has retired from the Board after over six years of service.

Finally, a huge thank you to the staff of Arts Access Australia for delivering these activities, and to CEO Meagan Shand for your leadership and vision to make change happen.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Belinda Locke', with a horizontal line underneath.

Belinda Locke

Arts Access Australia Chairperson

2.1 Life Membership Award

In 2017 AAA introduced a new Life Membership Award. Each year the chairperson will select a member who has demonstrated outstanding commitment to the organisation and/or arts and disability sector. This year we are delighted to honour Ms Mallika Macleod for her longstanding commitment to the organisation. Mallika commenced with AAA as a general member of the Board in 2011, and moved to the role of Deputy Chairperson in 2015 and Chairperson 2016-2017. A full copy of Mallika's contribution and achievements can be provided on request.



Image description – a headshot of Mallika Macleod who is looking up into the camera, she wears colourful necklace, earrings and purple

3.0 Treasurer's Report

I am pleased to report that, this year, Arts Access Australia recorded a surplus of \$41388 (2017: \$9704) for the year, with revenue of \$284,383 (2017: \$383,012) and expenditure of \$236,385 (2017: \$372,622). The surplus for this year was unbudgeted, and arose, principally, from consulting work performed by Arts Access Australia personnel towards the end of the year. The previous financial statements reported a loss of \$1,349 for 2018, compared with the surplus reported for the same year in the current financial statements of \$9704; the reason for this is that expenditure on website has been reclassified as an asset rather than an expense, with the result that the cost will be spread over a number of years, rather than in the year that the work was done. Revenue is lower in 2018 than in 2017 because Arts Access Australia received additional funding for the Berlin Project, whereas this year, the cost of Meeting Place was shared by other organisations. A detailed copy of the 2018 audited financial report can be provided on request.

Peter Kearney

Arts Access Australia Treasurer

4.0 Program Highlights

4.1 National & International Exchange

4.1.1 Meeting Place 2018, Alice Springs, Northern Territory

Arts Access Australia delivered the first regional Meeting Place forum in Alice Springs, September 24-26. Delivered in partnership with local access organisation Incite Arts and supported by a grant from the NT Government's Strategic Arts, Meeting Place 2018 showcased NT artists with disability, focusing on themes of First Nations art and people who live with learning disability. Artists with learning disability made up a more than a third of the program – from panel speakers, to DJs-in-residence, to workshop facilitators. The keynote address was delivered by Julia Hales, star of the Black Swan, Perth Festival and DADAA co-production and PAWA-award-winning hit “You know we belong together” The three-day conference was produced by a Management Committee comprising of AAA CEO Meagan Shand, Incite Arts CEO and past AAA Chairperson Jenine MacKay and arts consultant Kate Larson. A total of 295 people engaged in Meeting Place 2018, 148 attended and 147 tuned in via live streaming. Of the 148 participants attending, 50% presented in the program; 78% of the presenters identified as experiencing disability, 40% lived with intellectual disability; 71% were from NT and 49% identified as ATSI. This year AAA developed a dedicated Meeting Place website, another first, go to www.meetingplaceforum.org.

4.1.2 Aus-Berlin Arts Exchange Stage 2.

AAA was happy to welcome three delegates from Berlinklusion to Australia as the second stage of the Aus-Berlin Arts Exchange 2017. Visual artists Jovana Komnenic and Dirk Sorge, and Arts Manager Imke Baumann were supported by the Goethe Institute and German Embassy to present and exhibit at Meeting Place 2018 in Alice Springs and at DADAA in Fremantle, Western Australia. A special reception and pre-exhibition viewing was hosted at DADAA to welcome the German Ambassador Dr. Anna Prinz. Opening an important exchange pathway between the two organisations, Berlinklusion and DADAA, and the potential for future international development opportunities.



Image title: Leading to the Future Panel members at Meeting Place 2018 Location: Araluen Arts Centre, Alice Springs

Credit: Olive Eclipse Photography

Description: Six panel members are seated on stage in a row, German artist Dirk Sorge is seated in the middle and is leaning forward speaking into a microphone on a stand, other members are looking to him. Panel members from left right, Meagan Shand (CEO Arts Access Australia), Belinda Locke (Chairperson, Arts Access Australia), Dirk Sorge (Berlinklusion), Jovana Komnenic (Berlinklusion), Madeleine Little (2018 Stellar Leadership Award Winner), Jodie Holdback (Access2Arts)

4.1.3 Meeting Place 2019, Canberra

Planning for the 2019 Meeting Place event started in May and June 2018, when the CEO visited Canberra to meet with key stakeholders. Meeting Place uses a cultural development approach to engage local arts and cultural organisations in the process to ensure that the content is locally driven. The location for Meeting Place is chosen where the need for arts and disability development has been identified.

4.2 Leadership & Advocacy

4.2.1 Travel Scholarships Program

This year AAA launched its first Travel Scholarships Program, which provided flights and accommodation to a selection of emerging and professional artists with disability to attend Meeting Place 2018 in Alice Springs. Supported by a National Disability Conference Initiative grant and private investment from the Feilman Foundation; over 30 applications were received and a selection panel process was used to assess applications. Selection criteria included the persons motivation for attending; capacity to add to the Meeting Place forum program; and the personal benefits they would gain by attending, and how they would apply their learnings.

The following eight artists were selected to receive the 2018 Travel Grants:

Suzanne Whiteman - Director of Little Dragons Integrated Dance, Music and Creative Arts Group (Northern NSW).

Larissa MacFarlane - Melbourne-based visual artist and disability activist. (VIC)

Jeremy Hawkes - visual arts practitioner, arts worker and advocate (NSW)

Ceilidh Dalton- recent graduate of the ANU School of Art (ACT)

Fiona Tuomy - award-winning screenwriter, director, producer and developer. (VIC)

Madeleine Little - actor/performer and theatre maker; emerging leader (QLD)

Eliza Hull - musician, writer and radio announcer. (VIC)

Evelyn McKay - Noongar Woman and founder of Aboriginal support group for children with autism, ADHD and other disabilities. (WA)

Evaluation of the program found that recipients experienced increased motivation and confidence, established new connections and networks, and leveraged the opportunity to start new artistic projects, performances and enterprises.



Image title: Meeting Place 2018 Travel Grant Recipients Location: Araluen Arts Centre, Alice Springs

Credit: Olive Eclipse Photography

Description: Six women stand in front of the Meeting Place pull up banner, they are looking directly into the camera and smiling, they are visible from the torso up. Front row from left to right Evelyn McKay (WA), Madeleine Little (Qld). Back row Larissa MacFarlane (Vic), Suzanne Whiteman (NSW), Eliza Hull (Vic), Fiona Tuomy (Vic)

4.2.2 Other Leadership Activities.

Arts Access Australia continues to facilitate the CEO Leadership Group, which includes representatives from the state-based arts access organisations. Two meetings were held in 2018, in Adelaide in March and Alice Springs in September. Representative organisations are: DADAA (WA), Incite Arts (NT), Access2Arts (SA), Arts Access (Vic), Accessible Arts (NSW), Access Arts (Qld), Darwin Community Arts (NT) and Belconnen Arts Centre (ACT) have recently been welcomed to the leadership group.

4.2.3 Advocacy Activities.

The NDIS remained a key focus of AAA's advocacy activity in 2018. AAA hosted eight (8) NDIS Working Group meetings and developed a key relationship with the Department of Communication and Arts Intergovernmental Engagement and Program Support team, and worked with them to explore ways to better integrate and collaborate with the National Disability Insurance Agency. The Working Group also made connections with the NDIA.

AAA has commenced planning an advocacy campaign in preparation for the 2019 Federal Election. The CEO visited Parliament House in December to meet with the Honourable Mitch Fifield, Minister for Arts; as well as the Honourable Tony Burke the Shadow Minister. Work commenced on a letter writing platform and an election scorecard of priorities for action has been drafted, with the goal to facilitate a Pre-Election Forum in 2019.

4.3 Information & Advice

4.3.1 Key Statistics

Over the 12-month period AAA responded to 882 requests for information and has facilitated 19 seminars and workshops (in addition to Meeting Place). AAA's digital engagement has grown from strength to strength since the introduction of the dedicated communications position. With a total of 615565 visits across all social media platforms, including the AAA website, new Meeting Place website, YouTube, Twitter and Facebook.

4.3.2 NADS Consultation

AAA worked in partnership with Diverswerks to secure a contract to conduct face-to-face consultation for the National Arts and Disability Strategy review. AAA played a pivotal role in engaging state-based Arts and Disability peak bodies in the process, as well as engaging artists with disability in the consultation and on-line survey. A total of twenty-one (21) consultations were delivered across Australia, with AAA's CEO attending and co-facilitating 50% of the consultations.

Participating in the NADS consultation has enabled AAA to build stronger connections across the sector and hear first-hand the issues they face. The intelligence gathered will be applied directly to our strategic planning process in 2019 in preparation for the Councils, Four Year Funding EOI. AAA would like to acknowledge Diverswerks for their respectful engagement of the sector, and the state-based arts and disability organisations for working to facilitate important grass roots connections.

4.4 Sustainability

4.4.1 Income Diversification

AAA continues to work towards diversifying income from non-government sources. The NADS consultation outlined in item 4.3.2 provided new revenue for service fees, in addition AAA was successful in securing a PLUS 1 grant from Creative Partnerships Australia. The project aims to establish a new Donor Program and raise \$20,000 for the Travel Scholarships program (outlined in item 4.2.1) and to develop a new Leadership Award.

The new \$10,000 Leadership Award will support new and emerging leaders in the arts and disability sector to develop their leadership skills and experience; and will contribute to the costs of training and development or other development activities. The aim is to announce the first recipient at Meeting Place 2019.

4.4.2 Other Activities

AAA continues to build its membership base, and is exploring ways to grow member benefits. In 2018, significant work was completed on a Board recruitment strategy, based on a skills audit.

5.0 AAA Board Members and Staff Team

5.1 AAA Board Members 2018

Arts Access Australia is a disability-led organisation governed by a national Board of Directors. At least 50% of our Board identify with having a disability.

- **Belinda Locke**, Chairperson 18 May– 31 Dec 2018, Deputy Chairperson 01 Jan – 18 May 2018. Philanthropy Coordinator at Malthouse Theatre, individual member from Victoria.
- **Leah Maund**, Deputy Chairperson 18 May– 31 Dec 2018. Organisational Development Coordinator at Sensorium Theatre, individual member from WA
- **Peter Kearney**, Treasurer, Business Consultant co-opted individual member from NSW.
- **Guy Morgan**, Visual Artist, individual member from NSW.
- **Christine Johnson**, Writer & Arts Leadership, individual member from NSW
- **Mallika Macleod**, Chairperson 01 Jan – 18 May 2018, non-voting member 18 May – 31 Dec 2018. Manager Participation, Arts and Health at DADAA in WA, Original Member.

5.2 AAA Staff Team 2018

- **Meagan Shand**, CEO (commenced February 2017)
- **Maxxi May**, Program Manager (commenced February 2018)
- **Yvette Tulloch**, Communications Consultant / Advisor (sub-contractor)
- **Sarah Briggs**, Book keeper (sub-contractor)

6. Our Supporters

Arts Access Australia would like to acknowledge the following partners and supporters for helping us to create change.

Australia Council

Australian Government

Incite Arts

DADAA

Berlinklusion

Diverswerks

Feilman Foundation

Creative Partnerships Australia

Goethe Institute

Northern Territory Government

Araluen Arts Cultural Precinct

Alice Springs Town Council

6.1 Supporters Logos

