



Troy Grant
Deputy Premier of NSW
Minister for Justice and Police
Minister for the Arts
Minister for Racing

MEDIA RELEASE

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NSW GOVERNMENT INVESTS IN REGIONAL ARTISTIC TALENT

The NSW Liberals & Nationals Government is investing in artistic talent throughout regional NSW to ensure the community is supported with a diverse and thriving arts and cultural scene through dedicated fellowship and scholarship grants.

Deputy Premier and Minister for the Arts Troy Grant said the NSW Government is proud to support regional artists who are making valuable creative contributions, announcing the first recipients of a \$500,000 Regional Art Fellowship program and encouraging youth to apply for a share in a \$1 million Young Regional Artist Scholarship program.

The NSW Government's two \$50,000 Regional Arts Fellowships for 2015 have been awarded to Wagga Wagga cellist Clare Brassil and Bathurst theatre director Adam Deusien to expand their skills and further develop their careers.

"These highly talented artists will use their fellowships to develop career pathways while contributing greatly to the capacity of arts and culture in their regions and beyond," Mr Grant said.

"The NSW Government is committed to investing in our regional talent and is proud to have established new programs to develop skills in our renowned art professionals and in the next generation that will foster art and culture throughout regional NSW.

"I've heard first-hand how some of our inaugural scholarship recipients are benefiting from this new program and I encourage young regional artists to apply to connect with arts organisations and training opportunities," Mr Grant said.

The Regional Art Fellowship program will award \$50,000 to ten professional regional artists in all art forms over the next four years to develop career pathways and arts leadership.

The Young Regional Artist Scholarships program will see 25 scholarships a year awarded over the next four years, with the first 16 awarded in August and applications now open for the remaining nine for 2015/16.

For the purpose of the Regional Art Fellowship and Young Regional Artist Scholarship, regional NSW is defined as Local Government Areas outside the metropolitan areas and fringes of Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong.

Scholarships are open to young people aged between 18 and 25 working across all art forms. Applications are open until 1 February 2016. For more information or to apply, visit www.arts.nsw.gov.au.

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PROFILES OF FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENTS

Clare Brassil, a classically trained and orchestral cellist and composer, creates music using looping technologies and an amplifier with her cello under the moniker *Cello Riot*. Clare has performed and recorded for the Melbourne, West Australian, Tasmanian and Sydney Symphony Orchestras and contemporary artists including Kanye West, Barbra Streisand, Katie Noonan, Missy Higgins, The Whitlams and Jimmy Barnes.

Ms Brassil will undertake a series of mentorships with composers and artists, create new works, and perform in workshops and concerts across regional NSW. Mentors include:

- Katie Noonan and Zac Hurren;
- Canadian cellist/composer Julia Kent; and
- Australian film composer Michael Yeserski.

Adam Deusien, a lecturer in Theatre/Media at Charles Sturt University, has trained, taught and performed in Queensland, Hong Kong and Los Angeles. In 2012, Adam founded the physical theatre company Lingua Franca with Alison Plevey in Bathurst.

Mr Deusien's fellowship program includes:

- Workshops to share skills with three regional performing arts hubs, Hot House (Albury), Generator (Lismore) and Local Stages (Bathurst);
- A placement at Griffin Theatre Company, Sydney, accompanied by a mentorship with Artistic Director Lee Lewis;
- A placement at Déda Dance Company in Derby, UK working on its annual community festival of physical performance; and
- Development of a new theatre work.