

INFORMATION SHEET

BE WHAT YOU WANT TO BE

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Digital Arts:

Improving education and employment outcomes of Indigenous and non-Indigenous young people with disabilities in rural, remote and metropolitan areas of Australia

Project Overview

Digital Arts is a national research project funded by the National Research and Data Working Group through a National Disability Research and Development Grant.

Digital Arts programs are being established in four locations around Australia, starting in July/August 2016 and will run for 12 months. There is also a fully online program option for those who live in rural and remote areas. The program aims to improve your opportunities for further education and employment in areas relating to media and digital arts.

The program will involve a mix of online coursework with mentor support, enabling you to complete a Certificate II in Visual Arts from CQUniversity. There is no requirement for you to pass the course if you just want to attend and learn how to use digital media through the course. You would be required to attend a two hour session each week during school terms either in person, if you are near a drop-in center, or online. During the sessions you will set goals and work on creative projects with the assistance of mentors who are skilled in creative technologies and art media.

Participation Procedure

If you would like to join the Digital Arts program, please contact the site coordinator at one of the following sites and express your interest in joining the program. The Digital Arts program will be offered by our following partner organisations:

- Corrugated Iron Youth Arts in Darwin
- Reservoir Neighborhood House in Melbourne
- Tutti Arts in Adelaide
- CQUniversity in Rockhampton

If you live too far away from a program site or can't get to sessions and would like to join the online only program, please contact the program coordinator Eleanor Jackson Bowers at CQUniversity Adelaide Campus: Email: e.jackson-bowers@cqu.edu.au or Tel 08 8378 4548

The program is being offered free of charge to young people, aged 16 to 29, who self-identify as having a disability or have difficulties with some school subjects and who are interested in learning about digital media and having the opportunity to complete a Certificate II qualification in Visual Arts.

Young Indigenous people are encouraged to apply. The course materials have been specially developed to be culturally safe and the program is being overseen by Professor Bronwyn Fredericks from CQUniversity who is an Aboriginal woman from south-east Queensland. Bronwyn lives in Rockhampton and works at CQUniversity and has a history of teaching in schools, VET and university.

Those who need assistance with mobility or who have other special needs, will need to discuss their needs with the Site Coordinator when applying, so that arrangements can be made.

What are we asking of you?

The Digital Arts program is new and, so we can find out how well it works for you. We are interested in the difference it makes to your life and to your family. We will be asking you to respond to some questions when you first apply to join the program and two times during the term. This will take approximately two hours each time. Our Research Assistant will ask you some questions about how you are going, your connections with family and friends, how you feel you are progressing the program and whether you feel you are meeting your goals.

Every six months you will be able to discuss your experience of the program and provide feedback in a group, which will be sound recorded, and your comments will then be written down. If you prefer not to discuss things in the group, we can meet with you on your own. Your parents or guardian will also be invited to talk to us about how they think the program is going as well as the staff who work with you. All information you provide and the information about you will be treated with strictest confidence. It will be used to provide an overview of the success of the program and learnings for future programs and for nothing else. No individuals will be identified in reporting. This means that we won't tell anyone what you said and we will never use your name when we talk about any of the information.

Benefits and Risks

The program is being offered as an educational opportunity and we do not expect any risks to you apart from the usual things you might encounter when learning new things. Our mentors will be chosen because they are used to working with young people and they will be able to help you if you need support.

Your involvement in this project is voluntary. You can withdraw from the program at any time without affecting your ongoing relationship with the organisation who recruits you, now or in the future.

Confidentiality / Anonymity

All information about you will be kept confidential, except where there is a requirement by law for us to tell someone, where there is a concern to your wellbeing and safety. We will discuss this with you.

The research team will use the information to learn how successful the program has been, and for no other purpose. No information, which could identify you or anyone else in the program will be released, unless required by law. Your information will be securely stored in locked cabinets and on secure computers and only the research team will have access to it. All data including audio recordings and transcripts will be retained for five years in secure digital storage. After this time they will be destroyed.

Outcome / Publication of Results

The information we receive from you will be used to obtain an understanding of how successful the program has gone for everyone who participates and how to best provide a program like this for other young people. The information will enable us to develop an educational curriculum, resources and tools (course materials). It will also enable us to develop a program for improving the education and employment prospects of other people like you that can be applied more widely and in other locations, including schools and TAFE. The results of the project will be published in journals and presented at conferences but no personal information or names will be used in these papers. A summary report will be made available to you as well.

Consent

You will be asked to attend an interview with the Site Coordinator who will explain the program to you and give the opportunity to ask questions. If you still wish to participate they will ask you to sign a consent form to show that you agree to join the program and to participate in the research.

From time to time photographs will be taken of participants to use in promotional material and presentations. Participants will not be identified by name and photographs will be taken in such a way that individuals cannot be identified. You may have seen these type of photographs before where the photo is taken from the back of the room, or blurs people's faces a little. We will ask you to sign a form to give your consent to use photographs. No photographs, video or audio recordings of participants under the age of 18, will be used without parental permission.

Right to Withdraw

If you wish to withdraw from the program later on you are quite free to do so and it will not affect your ongoing relationship with the host organisation, but it will not be possible to withdraw the information you have already provided.

Feedback

At the end of the project, once all information has been collected, a report will be sent to participants and their families, if you have provided an email address. It will also be put on the project website. No individuals will be identified in the final report or in any publications.

Questions/ Further Information

If you would like more information please contact the Chief Investigator, Professor Denise Wood.

Professor Denise L. Wood
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Concerns / Complaints

Please contact CQUniversity's Office of Research (Tel: 07 4923 2603; E-mail: ethics@cqu.edu.au; Mailing address: Building 32, CQUniversity, Rockhampton QLD 4702) should there be any concerns about the nature and/or conduct of this research project.

This project has been approved by the CQUniversity Human Research Ethics Committee, approval number H16/02-026.