



MEDIA STATEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

3 November 2020

RANSW RESPONSE: CREATE NSW FUNDING CUT ANNOUNCEMENT

As Regional Arts NSW (RANSW) prepares to open our fourth and final Artstate this week in Wagga Wagga, an event that has clearly demonstrated the diversity and quality of arts practice in regional NSW, we are disappointed by yesterday's announcement from Create NSW that the solution to increasing funding to our members, the amazing regional arts development organisations across the state, was to cut funding to the peak body.

"It is incredibly disappointing that after years of advocacy by Regional Arts NSW (RANSW) for more funding for the Regional Arts Development Organisation (RADO) network, an increase is finally granted but at the cost of the peak body for regional artists and arts organisations in NSW losing its funding" Mrs Julie Briggs, RANSW Chairperson said.

"It is hard to believe that with a budget of over \$80 billion, the NSW Government could not find an additional \$400,000 to deliver increased funding to the RADO network, particularly given that funding has not been increased since 2013," Mrs Briggs said.

"The Minister has formed a view that regional artists and regional arts organisations in NSW no longer require a peak body," Mrs Briggs said. "This is despite twelve of the fourteen RADOs advising Create NSW, in response to the review, that they wanted RANSW to remain."

The RANSW board will continue business as usual throughout 2021 and use this time to consult with all its members and stakeholders to develop a strategy to support regional artists and arts organisation into the future.

"RANSW has undergone many changes during its almost 75 years in operation," Mrs Briggs said. "Our focus has and always will be on championing the rights of regional communities to access arts and cultural projects that are either locally produced or touring programs. How this is done may change in the future, as it has in the past."

Since this announcement was made on 2 November, the organisation has been overwhelmed by messages of support from the arts sector across NSW and interstate.

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