

ARTS AND HEALTH AUSTRALIA

Healthy People, Healthy Communities – engaging with the Arts

THE ART OF GOOD HEALTH AND WELLBEING

International Arts and Health Conference
exploring best practice policy, programs and research across primary
care, community health, health promotion / medical humanities
www.artsandhealth.org

10 – 13 November 2009 Port Macquarie NSW Australia
Pre-conference workshops / training program 7 – 10 November 2009

Pre-Conference Workshop Tuesday 10 November 2009

Are We There Yet? - Finding the means for meaningful international exchange of practice and research in community-based arts in health

A half-day workshop - preceded by a networking lunch and concluding with a small celebratory event. Maximum number of participants: 20

Workshop Convenors:

Mike White, Centre for Medical Humanities, Durham University, UK
Alison Clough, Creative Director, Pioneer Projects and Looking Well, UK
David Doyle, Executive Director, DADAA WA

Arts in community health has become a small-scale global phenomenon. Internationally, practitioners working in this field are finding both common cause and cultural diversity in their creative commitment to improving public health. In the future, arts in community health may venture even deeper into building capacity in both health services and the communities they serve, and will work increasingly in an international dimension out of global concerns to improve preventative healthcare. This is a new field for arts development that can dynamically employ the dictum attributed to Rene Dubos of 'think globally, act locally', and Bertholt Brecht's aphorism that 'every art contributes to the greatest art of all, the art of living'. Small steps can be huge when they affirm our interdependency for the health of both our communities and our world.

This half-day workshop is designed as an opportunity to reflect and share thoughts on how successful collaborations can be developed between like-minded people working on arts in community health in different parts of the world, with ideas for drawing community participants together as well as practitioners and researchers. Case examples will be drawn from the work of the Centre for Medical Humanities at Durham University, and from the international partnership initiatives of DADAA (Disability in the Arts, Disadvantage in the Arts Australia)..

Mike White and artist Alison Clough were awarded the first two international fellowships in arts in health from Healthway, Western Australia, in 2007/08. That experience and the ongoing collaborations that have resulted from it originated the idea for this workshop – which is aimed at those keen to pursue international exchange of information, practice and research.