

## **Andrews Government provides theatre technicians with innovative training opportunities in regional communities**

**A partnership between the Andrews Government and Arts Centre Melbourne, with co-investment from the Helen MacPherson Smith Trust, will offer young Victorians and established technicians, hands-on technical theatre and well-being training in a new training program.**

*Tech Connect* is a 12-week pilot program that will establish two theatrical hubs in Horsham and Shepparton providing approximately 100 aspiring theatre technicians with an introduction to working in the entertainment industry and established theatre technicians with access to state-of-the-art training and technical equipment, including mentoring for trainees in remote locations. Expressions of interest are now open for the accredited program that will connect regional creative communities from more than twenty surrounding 'satellite' cultural venues with theatre technical professionals at the Arts Centre Melbourne.

Following consultation with regional performing arts communities and the Victorian Association of Performing Arts Centres (VAPAC), the program addresses the shortage of theatre-relevant hands-on training for theatre technicians living in regional and remote areas.

Minister for Creative Industries, Martin Foley MP says, "*Victoria's creative industries are increasingly supporting growth in our regions through events, festivals and the wider visitor economy. With major workforce shortages in the sector and high youth under employment in our regional towns and centres, we are calling out to young people in regional Victoria, to bring your interest in live music, theatre, film and television or trade background and we'll offer you a free entertainment industry safety training program that is an ideal gateway into Victoria's creative sector.*"

*Tech Connect*, leverages the Arts Centre Melbourne's status as a registered training organisation to invest in Victoria's thriving regional creative industries.

Arts Centre Melbourne CEO, Claire Spencer said, "We are delighted to be able to support the next generation of theatre technicians to develop these specialised and sought-after skills. It is a fantastic program as it gives much-needed practical and hands-on experience to people wanting to pursue a career in technical services and certifies skills of theatre technicians who started their careers without formal training. Our theatre technicians are some of the most accomplished in the business and we are committed to sharing this knowledge with theatre technicians in the region, and to providing a pathway into the performing arts for young people."

The program will offer:

- WorkSafe accredited Entertainment Industry Safety Training (white-card certification)

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- Paid attendance for VAPAC venue nominated technicians to complete Certificate III in Live Production & Services
- Integrated Arts Wellbeing Collective training, building personal resilience and help-seeking culture
- Reciprocal venue exchanges with Arts Centre Melbourne and access to industry professional networks
- 1-on-1 specialist mentoring in participants' own satellite/regional 'home' venues.

WorkSafe Victoria have also supported the program with integration of the award-winning Arts Centre Melbourne lead Arts Wellbeing Collective workshop program, promoting positive mental health and wellbeing for young people across our creative state.

## MORE INFORMATION

Expression of interest close midnight 10 March 2019:

<https://www.artscentremelbourne.com.au/about-us/opportunities/techconnect>

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For more information about Arts Centre Melbourne, please visit [www.artscentremelbourne.com.au](http://www.artscentremelbourne.com.au) or phone 1300 182 183. Become a fan of [Arts Centre Melbourne on Facebook](#) or follow [@artscentremelb](#) on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

For further media information and interviews, please contact: **Karen Trentini**, Media Manager, Arts Centre Melbourne: [karen.trentini@artscentremelbourne.com.au](mailto:karen.trentini@artscentremelbourne.com.au) or 03 9281 8442

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