

## MEDIA RELEASE

4 November 2020

### Young voices take the mic with Drug Aware YCulture Regional

*Regional Arts WA is supporting youth-led projects throughout WA with the Drug Aware YCulture Regional Program.*

Broome radio guru Taylah Welsh, 26, successfully applied to Drug Aware YCulture Regional to run an innovative new project that brought young creatives into the heart of the city, to take the reins of the local Pirate88 radio station.

Taylah, who has worked in radio since age 14 and is now Quartermaster at Pirate88, sees this project as a great opportunity for youth who were looking for local creative opportunities, as she remembers having limited access to non-sporting pursuits while growing up in a small town.

“With Radiotown in Chinatown I wanted to give them an opportunity to do something they haven’t done before, and radio, you know, it also really improves confidence.

“So that means they’re more likely to pursue their own creativity in future as well – because they’ve got the skills, and now they’ve also got the confidence to tell them they can do something they’re passionate about.

“It was great fun, all around.”

While the project was focused on bringing skills to young people in the Kimberley, pulling in Media and Music educator Elicia Petite to teach participants media theory while Taylah handled the more hands-on radio lessons, there were also significant gains for others in the Broome community.

Shops around Chinatown were interviewed by the young radio journalists, giving them a bit of a chance for some local promotion, and a positive way to engage with local youth.

One participant has even gone on to use their new editing and mixing skills to create a local podcast.

Drug Aware YCulture regional is open for applications until Friday 11 December, providing grants up to \$4,000 (or up to \$6,000 for those living above the 26<sup>th</sup> parallel). If you know a regional young person with a great idea for an arts project, point them to [www.regionalartswa.org.au/yculture](http://www.regionalartswa.org.au/yculture) for more information on how to apply.

Drug Aware YCulture Regional is funded by Healthway and administered by Regional Arts WA to promote the Drug Aware message.

End.

### **Media Contact**

Weng-Si Cheang – Regional Arts WA Program Manager

P: 9200 6202 | Regional Freecall 1800 811 883 | E: [wcheang@regionalartswa.org.au](mailto:wcheang@regionalartswa.org.au)

---

## **SUPPORT MATERIAL**

### **Drug Aware YCulture Regional – Successful Applicants 2020 (as of October)**

#### **Drug Aware New Work Mentorship**

\$3,920.00 | Peel | Auspiced by Stage Presents Incorporated

The Riptide Youth Theatre ensemble are working with 3 writer/director teams to develop "Tide Tales 2.0". The writer/director teams were selected through an application process. Will O'Mahony mentored the writer/director teams in a new and improved Tide Tales development structure. Will's role as mentor will be to offer writing tools and dramaturgical support in the fields of drafting, proof-reading, world-building, character, and dialogue creation.

#### **Street Chillz Drug Aware Youth Festival**

\$3,377.00 | Peel | Auspiced by Shire of Murray

The Shire of Murray Youth Council adapted their project to suit the COVID-19 restrictions, running a series of online art workshops with George Domahidy from Graphite Crew and local artist Hanna Spencer. The participants were able to participate in urban artworks, with George and Hanna showing participants how to use POSCA pens to design their own skateboard deck. Hosting online workshops has encouraged other members of the Murray Youth Council to run programs/projects of their own in a digital medium.

#### **Drug Aware Youth Original Works Program**

\$4,000.00 | Mid West | Auspiced by Funtavia Inc

Seven young people in Geraldton ran a series of online and face to face workshops over 6 weeks during COVID-19 restrictions to further develop their skills in creation and performance of their own original works. The participants learnt creative development skills through the support and guidance of Euphorium Creative and mentored the participants in producing. The final showcase resulted in the participants devising, producing, and performing shows written 100% by them at a local venue in Geraldton.

#### **Breakfree Bunbury presented by Drug Aware**

\$4,000.00 | South West | Auspiced by Koombana Bay Sailing Club

Young people in Bunbury were able to engage in a series of workshops across 2 days at Breakfree at the Koombana Bay Sailing Club. Breakfree engaged local artists in running workshops in dance, textiles, sewing, music workshops in acoustic, classical, and electric guitars, musical theatre, drama, monologues, poetry and singing. Breakfree provided Bunbury youth access to engaging arts activities in an environment free from drugs and alcohol.

#### **Edgy Thoughts Phase One presented by Drug Aware**

\$4,000.00 | Great Southern | Auspiced by Southern Edge Arts

Edgy Thoughts will be developed and previewed by youth artists in Albany to explore contemporary issues facing regional youth in today's world. It is a theatre-dance work that will incorporate multimedia, photography and music. Participants will be supported and guided in performance-making with regional professional artists, Sym Parr and Anne Sorenson. The project coordinators will be mentored in producing and directing.

#### **SO\_MY\_FEST 2020 presented by Drug Aware**

\$2,920.00 | South West | Auspiced by Northcliffe Family and Community Centre

Young people attended a youth festival in Pemberton where they were able to participate in music workshops, creative workshops run by youth, fun physical activities and listen to live music by emerging artists and the band Amphead. Amphead ran a workshop where participants learnt how to use an acoustic guitar, how to change cords and culminated in a group jam session. Local musician Greg Butcher mentored a young person in how to set up and manage a sound system.

### **'Colours of Life' presented by Drug Aware - A series of art workshops and Youth Art Gallery in Narembeen**

\$3,972.50 | Wheatbelt | Auspiced by Narembeen Community Resource Centre

The youth of Narembeen participated in a series of art workshops run by local artists developing new skills in videography, photography and watercolour painting. The final showcase was an art exhibition where family, friends and the wider community could admire the artwork that was created by the youth. The project coordinators would love to make the project an annual event by providing different art workshops in the future

### **Brunswick Drug Aware Mural and Workshops**

\$4,000.00 | South West | Auspiced by Brunswick Junction Community Resource Centre

Youth of Brunswick will participate in a series of 3 workshops to design and implement a mural with local artist Claire Woolhouse. Claire will be teaching participants how to turn their idea into sketches, match colours together, basics painting techniques and how to produce their art on a large scale. There will be a community barbecue launch for the unveiling of the mural.

### **Drug Free, Be Free, Be You**

\$3,975.00 | Goldfields-Esperance | Auspiced by BlackandCUTE

The African Girls Group will participate in a series of face-to-face and online photography workshops with Melissa Drummond. Melissa will teach the participants on how to use a camera, take a photoshoot for exhibitions, website and is an opportunity for the African Girls to tell their stories. The final showcase will culminate in a live and a virtual exhibition, which will provide audience members to understand African women in different ways than the usual negatively stereotyped views.

---

### **About Regional Arts WA**

About Regional Arts WA Established in 1994, Regional Arts WA (formerly Country Arts WA) is the State's only multi-arts organisation with a purely regional focus. As an independent, membership-based, not-for-profit organisation our purpose is to celebrate and strengthen a powerful regional arts sector to contribute to connected and creative regional communities. [www.regionalartswa.org.au](http://www.regionalartswa.org.au)