



MEDIA RELEASE
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New Graduate Support Program Introduced Following Changes to Helpmann Academy Partnership

Adelaide Central School of Art is no longer an Affiliate Member of the Helpmann Academy for the Visual and Performing Arts.

Adelaide Central School of Art was invited to join Helpmann Academy in 1998. This partnership was established on the understanding that, as an independent not-for-profit institution that receives no state or federal funding, the School would not be in a position to contribute funding that matched that of Helpmann Academy's government-funded partner institutions.

In a recent proposal, Helpmann Academy advised that the School's Affiliate Membership Fee would increase in 2016/2017 and opportunities and services for its graduates would reduce. Specifically, Adelaide Central School of Art graduates would be excluded from applying for all Helpmann Academy grants and funding. The year-long Fontanelle Gallery & Studios Residency would also be discontinued, due to changes in Helpmann Academy's residency opportunities.

While Adelaide Central School of Art understands this proposal is a result of the changed funding arrangement with State Government, the value proposition for the School is nevertheless uneconomic, disadvantageous, and not in the best interests of its students and graduates.

Adelaide Central School of Art will now allocate funds to a new **Graduate Support Program** in place of an Affiliate Membership to Helpmann Academy. The program will provide graduates with a local residency opportunity at Fontanelle Gallery & Studios, an international workshop at the New York Studio School, grants to support the presentation and production of new work and quick-response grants for professional development.

"There is no doubt that the Helpmann Academy is unique in Australia. It has been a valuable resource to all partner institutions," said Ingrid Kellenbach, CEO, Adelaide Central School of Art. "This decision to move to a self-governing professional development program is in the best interests of Adelaide Central School of Art's current and future graduates. We are very excited about this new chapter and the doors it will open."

The Adelaide Central School of Art Graduate Support Program will strengthen the School's national profile as a visual arts education provider of excellence and the institution of choice for aspiring professional artists. Full details of the program will be announced shortly.

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