

THE ARTS UNIT – SPECIALIST PROGRAMS, SCHOOLS

STRATEGIC PLAN 2009 - 2011

CONTEXT: The Arts Unit is part of the NSW Department of Education and Training's Specialist Programs, Schools. Over 28,000 students and 3,500 teachers from government schools across the State access the unit's programs annually.

Focus areas for 2009 – 2011:

- Activities within The Arts Unit link to all of the Office of Schools' priority areas for 2009 – 2011. However, the unit's core activities strongly support and will focus on the following areas as a priority:
- Stages of Learning – Middle Years and 15 – 19 years
- Engagement and Retention
- Teacher Quality

as well as:

- Connected Learning
- Literacy

Through its range of program and events, The Arts Unit will:

- ensure that programs provide high quality opportunities for primary and secondary students across the State in all arts disciplines and in speaking competitions both in and beyond the classroom
- strengthen the professional learning offered to teachers and tutors working with students in government schools
- increase the reach and scope of arts programs by embedding Connected Classroom strategies into current and new programs
- develop cross-arts initiatives
- ensure that programs and events are led by high quality teachers, tutors, conductors, choreographers and directors and are held in quality rehearsal and performance/exhibition venues
- support schools to access appropriate visiting performers, presenters, tutors, conductors, choreographers, directors and adjudicators working in schools
- deliver programs and events within budget

In order to further support teachers and enhance opportunities for students in 2009 – 2011, The Arts Unit will:

- enhance its information and communication strategies to schools, teachers, students and their families, especially through the use of web technology
- improve data collection processes in order to accurately assess participation, identify gaps, and better evaluate programs.

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KEY DELIVERABLE	ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	PROGRAM/PLAN/ STRATEGY REFERENCE	OFFICE OF SCHOOLS PRIORITY AREA LINK
<p>Diversity of programs across the Arts that are beyond the capacity of individual schools and regions</p>	<p>The design, management and delivery of a suite of programs in the Arts that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build capacity of teachers through targeted professional learning • Provide students with access to learning experiences that complement and extend school/regional programs • Provide high profile performance, exhibition and competition opportunities <p>Activities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dance, Drama and Music Ensembles, Concerts and Festivals • Camps and student workshops in dance, drama, choral and instrumental music • Debating, public speaking and spelling competitions and representative debating teams • Schools Spectacular and other high profile events that showcase public education • Visual Arts Exhibitions through Artexpress and Operation Art • A wide range of targeted professional learning workshops and opportunities for teachers • Performances for Schools program 	<p>Senior Manager, Specialist Programs, Schools</p> <p>Manager, The Arts Unit</p> <p>Leader, Programs, The Arts Unit</p> <p>Leader, Operations and Administration, The Arts Unit</p>	<p>Stages of Learning Strategies</p> <p>Office of Schools Plan</p> <p>State Plan</p>	<p>STUDENT ENGAGEMENT AND RETENTION</p> <p>TEACHER QUALITY</p> <p>LITERACY</p> <p>CONNECTED LEARNING</p> <p>STAGES OF LEARNING</p> <p>WEBLINKS</p> <p>http://www.pau.nsw.edu.au</p> <p>http://www.schoolsspectacular.com.au</p> <p>http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/pfs/authorisedperf.htm</p>

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The following grid demonstrates how The Arts Unit's programs and events link to the Office of Schools Priority Areas and how they are measured:

ENGAGEMENT AND RETENTION	OTHER PRIORITY AREAS	TEACHER QUALITY
<p>Intended Outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide students with access to learning experiences that complement and/or extend school and regional activities • Provide high profile performance, exhibition and competition opportunities • Increase or maintain rates of students who return to Arts Unit programs • Enhanced parental engagement of students participating in Arts Unit programs <p>Indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of opportunities that complement and extend school and regional activities, especially for students at Stage 6 • % of positive evaluations from participating teachers and students • % of student retention in Arts Unit programs • Assessment of quality of programs by measuring against outcomes • Threshold levels of reporting: 6,000 Arts Unit contacts with students; 200 Arts Unit contacts with teachers and visiting staff <p>Strategies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide high quality learning opportunities for students through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ performing arts ensembles, festivals, workshops and camps ○ visual arts program of Operation Art ○ debating, public speaking and spelling programs ○ arts and speaking programs that support student learning outcomes in Stage 6 • Provide high profile performance, exhibition and competition opportunities that enhance student learning through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dance, Drama and Music Concerts and Festivals ○ Schools Spectacular and other high profile events that showcase public education ○ Visual Arts Exhibitions of Artexpress and Operation Art ○ Debating, public speaking and spelling competitions ○ Showcasing outstanding achievement of HSC students in Dance, Drama, Music and Visual Arts 	<p>CONNECTED LEARNING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrate the use of connected classrooms' technology into programs for students and teachers • Increase student and teacher access to programs, professional learning and events through the use of technology <p>ABORIGINAL EDUCATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with other DET offices and external agencies to improve learning outcomes for Aboriginal students through arts programs • Ensure participation and performance opportunities for Aboriginal students through the unit's programs and events • Support implementation of DET's Aboriginal Education and Training Policy. <p>LITERACY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase levels of literacy achievement in and through the Arts <p>NUMERACY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support increased levels of numeracy achievement through programs and events 	<p>Intended Outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build capacity of teachers to deliver arts education to improve student learning outcomes • Explicit links made to NSW IT through all professional learning – both teacher identified and registered training • Teacher awareness of suitable performers and visiting arts tutors to schools as a resource for enhancing student learning <p>Indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of opportunities for teachers that build their capacity to deliver arts education programs and public speaking programs, including those linked to NSW IT • % of positive evaluations from participating teachers linked to building their capacity • Assessment of quality of programs by measuring against outcomes • Threshold levels of reporting: 200 Arts Unit contacts with teachers and visiting staff <p>Strategies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the implementation of the NSW Quality Teaching model • Support teachers to align professional learning to student outcomes • Provide access to professional learning programs not available on a school or regional level • Provide professional learning that supports the NSW IT elements of Teaching Standards • Imbed targeted teacher professional learning into unit programs and events

STAGES OF LEARNING

YOUNG LEARNERS	MIDDLE YEARS	15-19 YEARS
<p>A broad spectrum of Arts Unit programs supports each stage of learning, reflecting the emerging depth and breadth of student learning needs ranging from Young Learners through Middle Years Learners to students ages 15-19 year.</p> <p>In this way, learning experiences provided through Arts Unit programs and events complement and extend arts opportunities offered on a school and regional level.</p>		