



Artist: Lee Bull, *Willing to be Vulnerable*, Sydney, Biennale, 2016

Arts and Cultural Development Program, Assessment Design, Arts NSW

> THE CONTEXT

In 2014 Arts NSW introduced the Arts and Cultural Development Program (ACDP), designed to support a resilient and vibrant arts and cultural sector. The ACDP was to be effected through several strands – program funding, projects, professional development initiatives and a strategic fund. While funding guidelines for the main competitive rounds of the program were published at the time of the ACDP's launch, the detail of the assessment processes still needed to be designed and communicated.

> THE BRIEF

Positive Solutions was engaged to develop the processes and documentation for the service organisations and multiyear funding categories of the ACDP to be implemented in an effective and targeted manner, including clear guidelines for peer assessors and applicants. Our advice was to be informed by best practice in other jurisdictions in application and assessment processes.

> OUR APPROACH

We initiated the project with a detailed briefing with officers and peer assessors, in order to understand existing processes, and explore issues and concerns in the design of future systems and guidelines. This was followed by:

- Interviews with selected applicant organisations to gauge perceived strengths and weaknesses of the current funding allocation systems
- A review of funding systems and guidelines from other jurisdictions
- Preparation of a findings and issues paper
- A workshop with Arts NSW officers and peer assessors to consider options for the future
- Draft guidelines, applicant notes, assessor notes

> THE RESULTS

A refined Arts and Cultural Development Program which took into account the views of the officers and other stakeholders.

SEE ALSO:

- > [Creative New Zealand, Multi-year Funding / Investment Programme Review](#)
- > [Northern Territory: Arts and Cultural Policy, Indigenous Arts Strategy, Arts Funding Program, Arts Policy Review, Darwin Festival](#)
- > [Funding Program for Music Works, Victoria](#)
- > Australia Council Co-Mingling