



Picture This

Easy English, September 2009

Increasing the cultural participation of people
with a disability in Victoria



A Victorian Government initiative

Picture This was commissioned by the State Government of Victoria through the Office for Disability (Department of Planning and Community Development) in partnership with Arts Victoria (Department of Premier and Cabinet) and Disability Services Division (Department of Human Services).

Any views and recommendations contained in this report do not necessarily reflect the views of the Victorian Government or indicate a commitment to a particular course of action.

© Office for Disability, Department of Planning and Community Development, 2010

This work is copyright. Apart from any use as permitted under the Copyright Act 1968, no part may be reproduced without the written permission of the Office for Disability, Department of Planning and Community Development.

Photo on the cover is detail from a photograph taken by Paul Dunn, showing the production of *Hunger*, rawcus with MSO, 2007

Picture This

A report on arts and
disability in Victoria

Easy English
September 2009



This information is written in an 'easy to read'
way. We use pictures to explain some ideas.

Some words are written in **blue**.
We explain what these words mean.

The arts and disability in Victoria

The arts is the name we give to all the different ways that people can take part in creative activities. These might include:



Visitors at the National Gallery of Victoria

- visiting art galleries
- seeing a movie or a play
- listening to music or going to a concert
- doing creative activities such as painting, drawing, writing or playing music
- working in a creative job. For example as an artist, writer, musician or actor.



For a lot of people, taking part in the arts is an important part of living a happy life.

Recently, the government in Victoria did some research about arts and disability. We did this research in two different ways:



- 1.** We read all the information that is available in Australia and overseas.
- 2.** We talked to people all around Victoria to hear their ideas.

What we learned

We learned that people with a disability don't take part in the arts as much as people who don't have a disability.

Sometimes, it can be difficult for people with a disability to take part in the arts.

Some of the problems are:



- **The cost of taking part in the arts**

Sometimes people don't have enough money to take part.



- **Not enough access**

Access means that you can enter a place or building, or you can use a service or get information.

Some people find it difficult to get into arts **venues**. A venue is a building where art events take place, such as a gallery, theatre or hall.

Some people find that some of the services they need, such as Auslan interpreters or subtitles, are not available at arts venues.



- **Not enough information**

Information about arts activities and events is not always easy to find, or easy to read.



- **Not enough training**

Sometimes, the people who work in the arts don't know enough about working with people with a disability. Or, they don't know how to make people with a disability feel welcome at arts venues.



- **Negative attitudes**

Some people have a bad attitude about people with a disability. This can make it difficult for people with a disability to go to art events or to work in the arts.



Ideas for improvement

There are a lot of ideas about how we can make things better. These ideas include:



- **Improving access**

Over recent years in Victoria, access to arts venues has improved. However, some arts venues are old and it is difficult to improve access. And sometimes it is expensive to make improvements.

Some people think that arts venues should not receive **funding** unless they offer better access. Funding is the money arts venues receive from the government.



- **Improving public transport**

Many people think that it would be easier to take part in the arts if public transport was improved.



- **Improving parking**

Many people think that it would be easier to take part in the arts if parking was improved.



- **Improving information**

People would like more information that is easy to use. This includes audio formats and Auslan interpreters.



- **Improving the rules**

There are a lot of different rules about the way that the government and people working in the arts should treat people with a disability. People said they would like better rules that are easier to use.



- **Teaching people who work in the arts**

People who work in the arts could learn more about working with people with a disability. They could also learn more about making people with a disability feel welcome at arts venues.







- **Helping people who want to work in the arts**

A lot of people with a disability would like to work in the arts. But this is not easy because people with a disability don't always have the same opportunities as people who do not have a disability.

Some of the ideas for making things better include teaching people about the arts and helping people to find jobs in the arts.



- **Celebrating achievements**

People told us that they would like more opportunities to celebrate the achievements of people with a disability in the arts. For example, there could be more awards, exhibitions and events.



- **Encouraging people to speak up**

People with a disability can share their ideas about taking part in the arts and working in the arts.



- **Creating a guide**

A guide to disability and the arts in Victoria could help people who are working in the arts understand what they need to do to make things better.



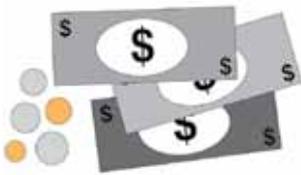
- **Creating a website**

People also said that a new website about disability and the arts would make information easier to find.



- **Continuing our research**

At the moment, the information we have does not tell us everything we need to know. There needs to be more research into how many people with a disability work in the arts and how many go to arts venues.



- **Improving funding**

There are a lot of ideas for improving the way that arts projects receive money from the government. For example, some people need more help to apply for funding, others need more time.



- **Making more time and space for creativity**

A lot of people want places for people with a disability to create art, such as artist studios and performance spaces.

We also learned that people with a disability who are working in the arts need more time to create their work.

Conclusion

People with a disability should have the same opportunities to take part in the arts as everyone else.

Things have improved over recent years. And a lot of exciting and new things are happening in Victoria. However, we still have a lot of work to do.

We will use all the information we have collected to find new ways for people with a disability to take part in the arts.

Contact us for more information

You can contact us if you would like more information about arts and disability in Victoria.



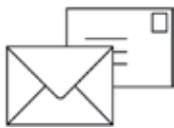
You can also ask us for the full version of this document. You can phone us on (03) 9208 3015 or 1300 880 043

TTY call (03) 9208 3631 for the cost of a local call



You can send an email to:

ofd@dpcd.vic.gov.au



Or you can write to us:

Office for Disability

Department of Planning and Community Development

1 Spring Street

Melbourne Victoria 3000



www.officefordisability.vic.gov.au

