



music FOR everyone

Media Call
10 July 2008

6230 7190
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MUSIC JAM!!

**A musical get-together for adults with disabilities at Music For Everyone
Ainslie Arts Centre, Elouera St Braddon
10.30am Friday 10 July**

MUSIC JAM is a free music-making get-together and morning-tea for all the participants in Music For Everyone's activity groups for people with disabilities, plus their friends, families, support workers – everyone is welcome! Music For Everyone's specialist tutor team will lead a fun-filled music-making session starting at 10.30am, followed by refreshments at approximately 11.30am.

"This is the first time we have put on a big event like this, combining all our groups," says program tutor Julie Wright. "We're expecting at least 60 people, maybe more, to turn up and take active part in singing, drumming, dancing and other activities."

Music For Everyone runs a nationally recognised best-practice program of group music activities for adults and teens with disabilities, that operates on a weekly basis at the Ainslie Arts Centre and Tuggeranong Arts Centre. More than 50 people with disabilities gather at one of five music groups each week to learn new skills, make music together and enjoy a great social activity. Many participants have been coming along for more than five years, and claim it is the highlight of their week. At the 2008 ACT Adult Learners Awards, this program won the Most Outstanding Program award and its chief tutor and team leader Julie Wright won the Most Outstanding Tutor award.

The program is a fee-paying educational and leisure activity specifically designed for people with disabilities, with 50% of the costs subsidised by a range of ACT government funding, including support from arts, health and adult education initiatives.

Music For Everyone is also delighted to announce that with new philanthropic support from THE SNOW FOUNDATION, this program can now be expanded to run an additional group, for the first time since new groups started at the Tuggeranong Arts Centre in 2005.

"Our current groups have been operating at maximum capacity for the last two years," says MFE's Artistic Director Vivienne Winther. "With this support from The Snow Foundation, we can finally offer this unique opportunity to some new participants."

The Music Jam event is also open to new people who would like to come along and see what happens in the weekly sessions – this could be an interested new participant, a family member, a support worker or a representative of an organisation or group home.

"We're expecting quite a few new faces at the Music Jam, maybe to see what friends have been doing at the weekly group class, or maybe because people have been thinking about joining a group, and this way they can come along and try it out first" says Vivienne Winther.

"We hope they'll enjoy this get-together and be encouraged to enrol in a group on a regular basis, now that new places are becoming available".

MUSIC JAM is happening at the **Ainslie Arts Centre (the old Ainslie Public School) corner of Elouera St and Donaldson St Braddon**, starting at **10.30am on Friday 10 July**, with morning tea at approx 11.30am.

*Music For Everyone and the program of music for people with disabilities is supported by the ACT Government.
The MFE program of music for people with disabilities is additionally supported by The Snow Foundation.
Music For Everyone supports SmokeFree.*