

22<sup>nd</sup> August 2019



## MEDIA RELEASE

**LAUNCH OF ROBINVALE YOUTH PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE FEASIBILITY STUDY**

**THURSDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER**

**ROBINVALE COMMUNITY ARTS CENTRE AT 10.45AM**

**PERFORMANCE BY MUTTI MUTTI/YORTA YORTA DANCER PHIL EGAN**

Leading Australian arts company, Phunktional, are honoured to launch a regional-first feasibility study into the establishment of a world-class, professional youth performing arts centre in the north-west corner of Victoria.

An overwhelming **87% of locals surveyed said a 'youth performing arts centre of excellence' would be good for the region.** The research included 700+ branch-chain survey responses and eight focus groups.

For the past six years Phunktional have been working with multi-cultural young people in the Robinvale, Mildura and Swan Hill communities on long-term, place-based creative projects that have resulted in the development of world-class art (see links below).

Many of these young people have a strong interest in the arts; young people from regional areas whose aspirations are often forgotten in a nation that's often obsessed with sports.

During this work in communities, young people expressed a wanting and a need for the establishment of a youth performing arts centre in the region.

“We know from our years of work with communities across Australia that performing arts makes a positive and on-going difference to the mental and physical well-being of young people” Phunktional’s Artistic Director, Gerard Veltre, said.

This centre would provide jobs, opportunities and skills development programs for young people at risk, along with presenting professional theatre, music and dance performances for the wider community.

“Phunktional listened and responded to the calls for an established performing arts centre in this region, and over the past two years we have taken on intense research, compiling an in-depth feasibility study into the support and acceptance by the greater community for the centre,” Veltre said.

“Arts and health are inextricably linked and a proven strategy for engaging and supporting young people to increase their resilience and their connectedness to education and the broader community,” he said.

“The talent in this region is phenomenal – it’s world class, and an established centre would ensure the on-going support of performing arts practices for generations to come – an integral training ground for local Aboriginal and young multi-cultural individuals to potentially launch their careers,” Veltre said

### **Links**

- [NITV News Report and list of International Awards](#)
- <http://www.phunktional.org.au/projects/stories-beneath-vale/>

### **Media Enquiries & Images**

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