

## **BIG hART WINS TELSTRA BUSINESS OF THE YEAR IN TASMANIA**

**Big hART** has just won the **Telstra Tasmanian Business of the Year** and the **Telstra Tasmania Charity of the Year** at the Telstra Business Awards.

At a prestigious event for the state awards at the casino in Hobart last night, Big hART took out the top award of the night in Australia's longest running program honouring the achievement of Australian businesses.

"We are absolutely thrilled to win the Telstra Tasmanian Business of the Year Award and Telstra Tasmanian Charity of the Year" said Scott Rankin, Big hART CEO and Creative Director.

"This esteemed acknowledgment of our work is a wonderful nod to Big hART's beginnings in the North West of Tasmania, and to 25 years of practice working with Australia's most disadvantaged communities, demonstrating that we are a safe pair of hands for individual and corporate donors."

In the Charity category, Big hART was up against some strong contenders including Cancer Council Tasmania, Brave Foundation, South Eastern Community Care in Sorrell, and Epilepsy Tasmania. Big hART will now go to Sydney for the national competition, which will be judged at the high profile awards night on Friday 25 August.

Founded in Burnie 25 years ago, Big hART has since grown into Australia's leading arts and social change organisation of national renown. Our work assists vulnerable people who are experiencing complex disadvantage to have a voice, reimagine their future, and gain the skills – the gift of their story can help drive generational change.

A registered charity, Big hART has worked in over 50 communities in the areas of family violence prevention, juvenile justice, homelessness, Indigenous communities, slavery at sea, youth, rural Australia and crime prevention. With a team of 28 staff which swells around major events and outcomes, Big hART currently has employees based in 5 states, in Wynyard TAS, Melbourne, Sydney, Cooma NSW, Pambula NSW and in Roebourne in the Pilbara WA. Since 1992, Big hART has worked alongside over 8000 individuals in urban, rural, regional and remote Australia with a threefold focus of making art, building community and driving change.

If you'd like to learn more about Big hART or are interested in supporting our work, go to our website: <u>www.bighart.org.au</u> Or follow us on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram