



ROEBOURNE YOUNG WOMEN HEAD TO CANBERRA FOR GIANT COLOURATHON

A selection of young women from **Big hART's** program in Roebourne will be heading to Canberra on 30 November to present and produce a national 12 hour art marathon, '**Colourathon**'.

Designed and delivered by young women from around the country, Colourathon is a world-first art initiative which will take place at the **National Gallery of Australia** on Nov 30, with mini satellite events also occurring across the country. Colourathon brings together young women from Big hART's initiative Project O, from 4 states and territories of Australia – from Wynyard in NW Tasmania, Cooma NSW, Canberra and Roebourne – all working together to raise awareness of family violence prevention.

Colourathon will be launched by 2015 Australian of the Year and domestic violence campaigner **Rosie Batty**. Harnessing the global trend of colouring in for mindfulness, every hour of colouring in at Colourathon will raise funds for specialist childhood trauma training for staff in women's shelters.

Big hART's program with the young, strong women of Roebourne is focused on the young bright future of Roebourne, enabling these engaged young women who are passionate about their community to develop new skills and learn to advocate for change. This positive program is about supporting the young future leaders of the region - building resilience, confidence, employment pathways and delivering generational change in communities.

Over the last few weeks the Roebourne young women have been working with high-profile artist **George Rose** to create large murals for Colourathon, and are now working alongside award-winning interactive designer **Stu Campbell** to turn them into an augmented reality APP, which will be downloadable on the day of Colourathon. In the lead up to Colourathon the Roebourne young women are also learning skills in advocacy, media, public speaking and production.

For over 6 years Big hART's Roebourne project '**Yijala Yala**' has worked with 28% of the Roebourne population, and 80% of the young people aged 7-17 in Roebourne. Big hART also helps young people stay in school, supports the intergenerational transfer of cultural knowledge, assists re-engagement of at-risk youth in education and community, provides diversionary programs for young offenders, fosters local capability and entrepreneurial tenacity, provides training and employment, and has worked with families of people in the prison and prisoners. Big hART has conducted almost 2000 workshops with the Roebourne community, produced 60 films, had 42 live performances and won 9 awards for our work in Roebourne.

Big hART is currently a finalist for a national Human Rights Award and despite the numerous successes and achievements in Roebourne, is currently at critical stage with funding. If funding is not confirmed soon, Big hART may have to depart from Roebourne in 2018.

Big hART was founded 25 years ago and has since grown into Australia's leading arts and social change company 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. To date Big hART has worked in over 50 communities, alongside over 8000 individuals in urban, rural, regional and remote Australia and won over 45 awards.



All Media Enquiries to Big hART Media and Communications Manager Bettina Richter

E: bettina@bighart.org

M: 0414 441 860

W: bighart.org

COLOURATHON