



COURAGE, COMMUNICATION & CONFIDENCE - YOUNG WOMEN OF FRANKSTON DEVELOP NEW SKILLS UNDER PROJECT O

This **Thursday 27th June** join the young women of **Project O Frankston** for an afternoon of art, conversation and a celebration of achievements.

The event will run from 1-2:30pm at the Project O room in Monterey Secondary College and will also feature a live interview of inspiring women Federal MP Peta Murphy with artists George Rose and Nicole Reed interviewed by the young women of Project O.

This term Project O young women aged 11-15 years have been flourishing under the mentorship of celebrated artist George Rose, award-winning photographer Nicole Reed, filmmaker Nicky Akehurst and acclaimed muralist Justine McAlister as well as Project O producers Natalie O'Donnell, Maggie Abraham and Lesley Pinder. All term they have been exploring their inner strengths through the creation of digital artworks which will be available for viewing during the event.

Project O Producer Natalie O'Donnell says that engaging mentors onto Project O who are at the top of their field makes a huge difference to the rate of growth which happens in the young women. "It cuts out about twenty steps. Through their ongoing association with these mentors, and through the sharing of the mentors' experiences, the young women witness first-hand examples of aspiration as something tangible, and success as something achievable."

Project O participant Paige, just 15 years of age from Monterey Secondary College says "With courage, perseverance and strength I am building confidence to speak up about things that are important to me. I want to learn the best way to communicate my ideas and concerns with the people around me, with my friends and with my teachers. I think good communication comes from building relationships based on respect and equality."

This year the young women have assisted at a number of community events including the Stella Film Festival and Frankston Council's family festival Party in the Park, learning skills in event management, speechmaking and community relations.

An initiative of award-winning arts campaigning organisation Big hART, Project O is a primary prevention project which has run across 5 states and sees young women develop new skills and learn to advocate for change in their community. It invests in young women as change-makers, building resilience and identifying employment pathways, removing the barriers arising from family violence and delivering generational change in communities. Project O began in Frankston at the end of 2018, and has been running in Tasmania for over 4 years and is also in Roebourne in WA.

Big hART is Australia's leading campaigning arts organization, working in over 50 communities for 25 years, alongside over 8000 individuals and won over 45 awards.

Project O Frankston is proudly supported by Creative Victoria, the Victorian State Government, Angior Foundation and Telstra.



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