

# Don't forget the arts! Harnessing creative pursuits that build resilience

*Australian Disaster Resilience Conference  
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**FRRR**  
Foundation for Rural  
Regional Renewal





## WHAT WE STRIVE FOR

Remote, rural and regional communities have the leadership, adaptive capacity and access to opportunity they require to be:

### Vibrant

Culturally and economically diverse, dynamic and continually improving.

### Sustainable

Tackle social, economic, and environmental challenges to ensure wellbeing and access to opportunities for future generations.

### Empowered

Have resources, agency and structures in place to make their own decisions about the future.

### Resilient

With the knowledge, capacity and infrastructure to collectively respond to shocks and become better prepared for the future.

Cross-cutting focus areas



Next generation transition

Outback and very remote communities

Climate solutions

Disaster resilience

First Nations self-determination

## WHAT WE DO THAT WORKS

With our partners, we bridge the systemic gap to:

Reshape how communities are seen, valued and supported

Connect resources

Build enduring local skills and knowledge

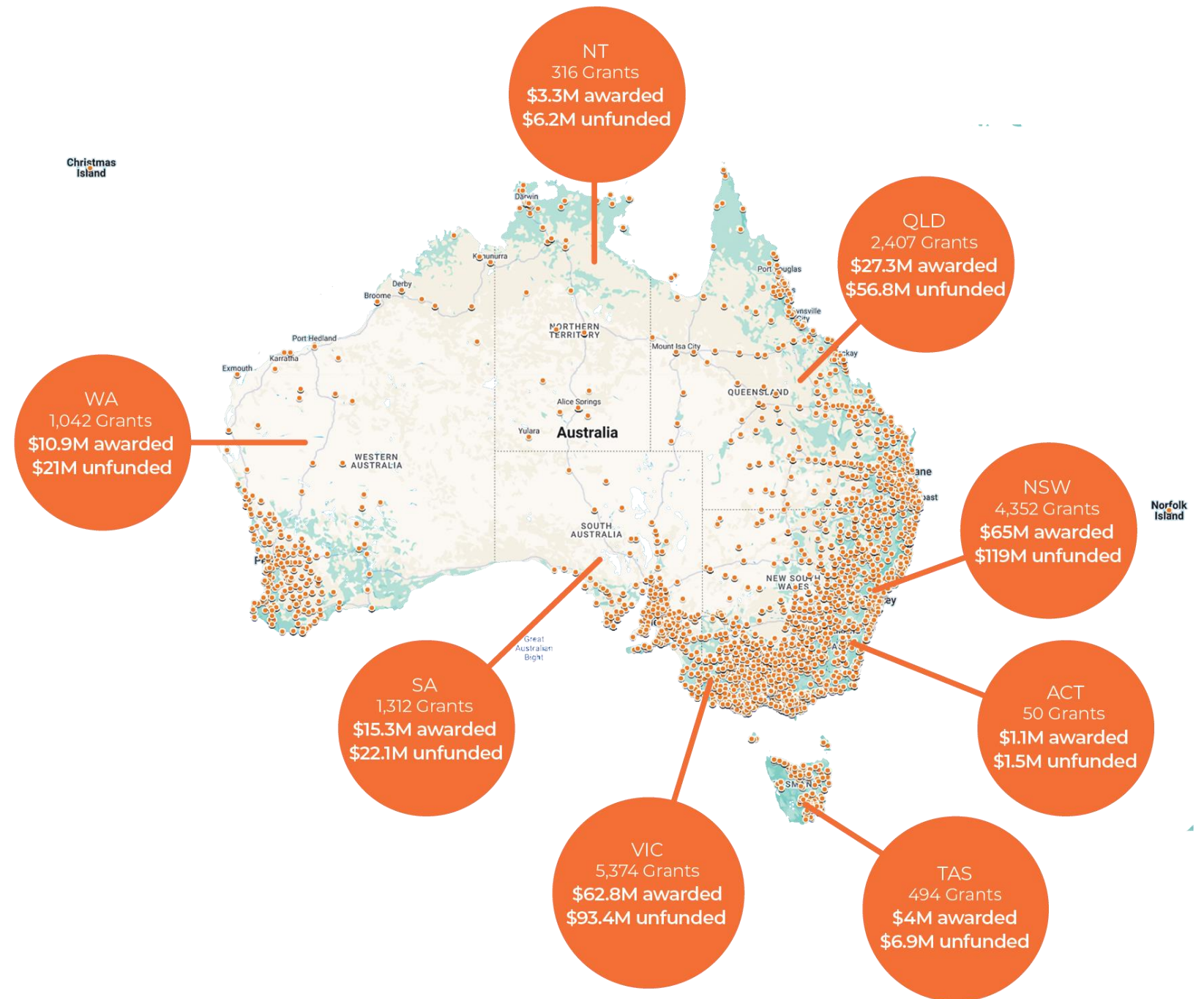
Enhance local leadership and capacity

Work through complexity at the pace of community

Support adaptive social and built infrastructure

We've funded more than \$213 million to support over 16,000 projects across rural and remote Australia since 2000.

We reach small, remote areas that are underserved by mainstream systems and experience persistent market failures.



# Resilience takes many shapes & forms

- Community resilience thrives when nurtured through multiple avenues
- The arts are a creative outlet that fuel recovery and resilience building
- Small grassroots organisations in rural and remote Australia have captured the power of creativity to help their communities prepare for disasters



Photo: RANT Arts

# Participation in creative recovery builds resilience

Research by FRRR and the Creative Recovery Network in 2023 showed that the arts is a powerful and unique medium that:

- Builds long-lasting **community resilience and wellbeing + enhance community capacity** for preparedness, response and recovery
- Enriches community **social connection, closeness, affection + strengthens complex partnerships**
- **Revitalises**; influences **how seen by others**, supports **mentorship** and **education**
- Improves **mental health and wellbeing**
- Improves **quality of life**, enduring **confidence + sense of self-worth**



Photo: Gurrumul Yunupingu Foundation

See [Impacts of Creative Recovery \(2023\), Creative Recovery Network and the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal](#)

# How communities have used arts to build resilience



Photo: Brad Harris

Encourage participation

Engage

Culturally vibrant communities



Photo: Loxton District Chamber of Commerce



Photo: Regional Development Australia Tropical North

Creativity as tool for healing

Effective networks

Economic driver

Training, skills, development

Solution-orientated thinking



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- Partnering since 2020
- Supporting grassroots initiatives that strengthen community networks, leadership, wellbeing and engagement in drought preparedness



*"Of all the climate challenges to afflict Australia, drought is one of the most feared, and costly."* <sup>4</sup>

Bureau of Meteorology

# Close Up A Drought Preparedness Project



# RANT Arts – our priorities



Regional communities

Young people

Mental health and  
wellbeing

Community  
development



**Close Up: Drought Preparedness** is a creative storytelling project by RANT Arts that produced three short videos promoting drought preparedness, community resilience and wellbeing in the face of climate variability.



Through creative workshops and mentoring, young regional Tasmanians between 18 – 35 became storytellers, community leaders and climate advocates, amplifying youth perspectives within broader conversations about resilience, preparedness and climate adaptation.

RANT

# Why young people?



## Young People are passionate climate change makers

- Young people will live with the long-term impacts of climate variability and drought
- Their perspectives are often underrepresented in preparedness conversations
- Young people want to contribute to shaping resilience discussions, not simply receive information
- Creative practice provides a pathway for young people to explore, share and communicate their experiences & emotions
- Creative practice provides pathways for young people to develop confidence, leadership and advocacy skills and share their personal perspectives on climate resilience

# The Process



1

Creative workshops

Premier launch

3



2

Post production



# The Outcome



 Three free short films promoting drought preparedness, resilience and wellbeing

 Downloadable resilience toolkit supporting ongoing community use

 Accessible community resources with subtitles, audio description and imagery





# Let's talk about climate emotions

As major global changes in climate become more and more apparent, it's important to consider how this impacts us both physically and emotionally. This short video talks about climate anxiety and what we can do to manage it and make a positive difference in our world.





# How Arts Contributes to Drought Preparedness

## Creativity isn't the outcome. It's the engagement strategy

- Creates safe entry points into preparedness conversations
- Transforms traditional preparedness messaging into storytelling that connects with people and engages communities
- Preparedness is strongest when communities help shape the conversation
- Supports communities to shape preparedness conversations, rather than simply receive information

## Through Close Up this meant:

- Young people explored & expressed their personal climate experiences, perspectives & emotions
- Young people led, created & shaped resilience conversations
- Youth became storytellers, leaders & climate advocates
- Confidence, connection & community capacity were strengthened through collaboration



# We are better together

Resilient communities are stronger communities which enable people to adapt and thrive in the face of challenges and change. This short video talks about what resilience means and how we can all contribute to make our communities better together.





# Download The Free Close Up Video Toolkit



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# So, what works? Three key insights

1. The arts can build long-lasting community resilience and wellbeing, and enhance community capacity for disaster preparedness, response and recovery.
2. Creative pursuits can transform how communities build strong individual and community resilience – achieving practical pathways to equitable resilience through creativity.
3. Communities around Australia have captured the power of creative endeavours to help their communities build resilience.



Photo: RANT Arts

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# Thank you and keep in touch

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