

MEDIA RELEASE

What is the Vision for the Arts in Canberra ?

It is not too early to help shape the next four years for arts and culture in the ACT Region.

With the ACT election coming up, the Childers Group is holding a special forum with the candidates from the three main political parties at 5.30 pm on Wednesday 24 February in the Main Hall at Gorman Arts Centre, Braddon.

David Williams, spokesperson for The Childers Group, said: *"The arts sector has been through a rough time in the last few years, with cuts at the Federal level and minimal increases at the local level. We need to remind candidates of the contribution made by the arts and artists to the life and vitality of Canberra and region. The Forum presents an opportunity to tell them what is needed to sustain the arts sector."*

Hear the decision makers' vision for the arts, and have your say about what's needed.

Dr Chris Bourke MLA, Minister for Small Business and the Arts (ACT Labor), Shane Rattenbury MLA, Spokesperson for the Arts (ACT Greens) and Brendan Smyth MLA, Shadow Minister for the Arts (ACT Liberals) will talk about their vision and plans for the next four years. The audience will then have an opportunity to ask questions and share their ideas and suggestions for the future.

The Childers Group has invited a panel of people passionate and informed about the arts in the ACT to question the politicians:

Paul Daley is a respected journalist who is also a playwright and a novelist whose books have been shortlisted in major literary prizes. Paul is the author of the political novel *Challenge*.

Chris Endrey is a musician, comedian and the former host of cult variety show *In Canberra Tonight*.

Professor Helen Ennis is one of Australia's leading photography curators, historians and writers. She joined the ANU School of Art in 1995 and is convenor of the Graduate Research program. In 2014, she became Director of the Centre for Art History and Art Theory at the School of Art.

Jenni Kemarre Martiniello is a prolific artist and writer and graduate of the ANU and the ANU School of Art. She was introduced to glass during a group residency at the Canberra Glassworks in 2008. The group exhibition *IndigiGlass08: Postcards from the Referendum*, was created to mark the 40th anniversary of the 1967 Aboriginal referendum. Martiniello was the 2013 Winner of the 30th Telstra NATSIA Award, Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory.

Cost: \$10 and \$5 concessions to help cover costs

Bookings essential: <http://www.agac.com.au/event/childers-group-forum-vision-and-support-whats-planned-and-whats-needed-for-the-arts-in-the-act-region/>

Further information visit www.childersgroup.com.au

Media inquiries: Evol McLeod 0406 378 889 or Jack Lloyd 0432 275 225

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