



MEDIA RELEASE

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JESSICA MACHIN TO SAY GOODBYE TO CARCLEW AND SAYAB

After 5 years, Jessica Machin has announced she will be leaving the roles of Chief Executive Officer & Artistic Director of Carclew Youth Arts Centre, and Executive Officer of South Australian Youth Arts Board, to take up a position with Country Arts WA.

Katrina Sedgwick, Chair of South Australian Youth Arts Board (SAYAB) said: "It has been an action packed and extremely fulfilling 5 years with Jessica at the helm of one of Australia's finest youth arts institutions, SAYAB and Carclew, bringing wonderful opportunities for our youth arts sector and most importantly for the young people of South Australia. We wish Jess all the best for what is an exciting new step in her career."

Under Jessica's leadership, Carclew and SAYAB have flourished. Her impressive list of achievements include leading the bid for and subsequently as Executive Producer establishing the upcoming **16th ASSITEJ World Congress and Performing Arts Festival**, one of the world's most important arts & cultural events for young people, to be held in Adelaide from May 8 – 19. Within Carclew, she established the **Indigenous Arts & Culture program** which has attracted more than \$800,000 funding, including significant support through the Alcohol & Educational Rehabilitation Foundation for the 2 year **Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara** Lands, Arts and Health project as well as ongoing funding for Carclew's Odeon Theatre in Norwood, which turned 21 last year.

Jessica Machin said: "It has been an honour and a privilege to head up Carclew Youth Arts and SAYAB for the past 5 years. I believe deeply in the work we have accomplished and know that Carclew and SAYAB, through the work of its dedicated teams, will continue to brighten and enrich the lives of children and young people living in South Australia. After all that is what it is all about isn't it."

Jessica was a state finalist for the Telstra Women's Business Awards and led SAYAB and Carclew to numerous awards, most recently the 2007 ABAF / Australia Council Arts for Young People Award, which recognised the partnership between the South Australian Youth Arts Board and BHP Billiton. This partnership saw the establishment of the BHP Billiton Youth Arts Fund, a \$1,000,000 program over 4 years, which is the largest youth arts sponsorship in the country.

Minister Assisting in the Arts John Hill says: "Jess has been an outstanding arts administrator and leader in South Australia. She has done a fantastic job with Carclew/SAYAB, and was successful in winning for this state the prestigious ASSITEJ festival. She has done very innovative work with remote communities, especially Aboriginal communities.

She is dynamic and visionary, and South Australia's loss will be Western Australia's gain."

Following her departure on 16 May, Jessica will be taking up the position of CEO, Country Arts WA.

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