



For immediate release

ARTS:LIVE – supporting teachers to deliver the Australian Curriculum in the Arts.

Education Ministers around Australia have now formally endorsed Australia's inaugural national Arts curriculum.

International and local evidence tells us this is great news for the quality of our students' education and development.

However, are our teachers prepared to deliver a national Arts curriculum?

The vast majority of schools do not have specialist arts teachers. Generalist teachers receive less than 20 hours of arts training across their three year degrees, so the prospect of teaching across music, dance, drama, visual and media arts can be daunting for many.

This is why national not-for-profit organisation, The Song Room, has developed *ARTS:LIVE*.

ARTS:LIVE is a unique, interactive online learning platform now freely available in every school in Australia to ensure no child misses out on a quality arts education. Providing much needed support for the generalist classroom teacher to deliver the national Arts curriculum, *ARTS:LIVE* currently provides over 400 high quality curriculum aligned resources, including teacher resources.

The Song Room is now calling out to all teachers around Australia to get online and 'Dance Your Socks Off' or 'Compose Yourself' or even 'Sing Scat and Scoo Bee Doo', to name a few of the 400 plus digital music and arts resources now freely available to them.

Teachers can register for free with their school email address at www.artslive.org.au

The Song Room has been trialling *ARTS:LIVE* in a number of schools leading up to the launch in June, which has since seen over 1,000 schools register and begin using the resources already.

"There are so many great activities and lessons which teachers can use to not only engage students but provide purposeful learning experiences for all students. ARTS:LIVE is a wonderful way for all teachers to bring the Arts into their classroom and incorporate the arts and creativity into other curriculum areas." – Teacher, Dandenong South Primary School

The Song Room CEO, Caroline Aebersold commented, "With ongoing concern about Australia's performance in education compared with our OECD peers, and growing evidence about the beneficial impact learning music and the arts has on students' academic performance across the curriculum, *ARTS:LIVE* can now make teaching music and the arts a rewarding and engaging experience for teachers and students alike."

"In Australia, pre-service generalist teachers receive on average less than 20 hours training across the arts in their entire three year degree. This leaves many of our teachers without the resources or confidence to teach the arts in their classrooms, meaning our students are missing out on the proven benefits of learning music and the arts. *ARTS:LIVE* can bridge this gap and give all students the chance to perform at their best."

Education Services Australia CEO, Susan Mann, commented, "We decided to contract The Song Room to produce digital resources aligned to the Australian Curriculum across all five art forms as The Song Room has strong experience delivering teaching and learning programs and significant experience in producing high quality interactive digital arts resources."



“Song Room is an innovative organisation with an excellent track record in working collaboratively and we believe its vision of providing access for all Australian children to quality music and arts has great impact.”

The Song Room has partnered with some of Australia’s leading arts organisations and arts education specialists to create the high quality arts resources on *ARTS:LIVE*.

“With the strong foundation of content we’ve now created, we are very excited about the future of the *ARTS:LIVE* resource and the opportunity to work in further partnership with arts organisations across Australia to bring their expertise into classrooms through this accessible platform”, said Ms Aegersold.

ARTS:LIVE is supported by the Australian Government through the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, including for work with Education Services Australia (ESA) as part of the Government’s Supporting Australian Curriculum Online initiative.

The Song Room is a national not-for-profit organisation that provides enhanced learning opportunities for disadvantaged children through music and arts programs that are proven to lift their academic performance, school attendance, social and emotional wellbeing, and community involvement.

The Song Room’s tailored, collaborative face to face programs reach over 15,000 children in targeted disadvantaged school communities each week, with a focus on children with low socio-economic status, living in regional and remote areas, from non-English speaking or Indigenous backgrounds.

www.songroom.org.au

www.artslive.com.au

Interview opportunities available with:

- Caroline Aegersold, CEO The Song Room
- Susan Mann, CEO Education Services Australia
- Teachers who have been trialling *ARTS:LIVE* in their classrooms

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