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THE SONG ROOM NAMED AS A WISE AWARDS FINALIST

The Song Room is one of fifteen projects chosen by WISE for providing a compelling, innovative solution to one of today's most pressing challenges in education.

Melbourne, Australia, April 29, 2014

The Song Room is proud to announce that the World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE) has today named it as a 2014 WISE Awards Finalists. This year's list of Finalists represent some of the most inspiring and visionary work undertaken by non-governmental and charitable organisations, cultural institutions and in the private sector. Inaugurated in 2009, the WISE Awards identify and promote unique and novel solutions to real-world education challenges.

The Song Room is a provider of long term, in-school, tailored arts based programs for disadvantaged schools, engaging young people through the arts. The Song Room works across the five art forms of music, dance, drama, visual arts and media arts to improve students social and emotional well being, school attendance and learning outcomes. These innovative workshops use music and the arts as a vehicle for student learning and engagement, provide access to specialist Teaching Artists in the school setting and are tailored to each school's unique needs.

This year's Finalists from around the world showcase creative approaches to issues of access, quality and employment. The projects combine conventional tools with a range of technologies to achieve results in a variety of areas including addressing special needs, encouraging a love of literature, running a small business, and reaching marginalised communities.

The WISE Awards Finalist projects, evaluated by a Pre-Jury of internationally recognized education experts, demonstrated innovative thinking and concrete impact on communities and societies as well as the ability to be replicated in other contexts and regions.

Caroline Aebersold, CEO of The Song Room said: "We are delighted that The Song Room has been named as one of the 2014 WISE Awards Finalists, an acknowledgement of our project's innovative thinking and the real impact we have on our community.

"The Song Room's mission is that all Australian children have access to music and arts education. We have extensive research that shows our tailored music and arts programs improve student attendance, learning outcomes and wellbeing. We are excited to share our programs and findings on a global level."

The six winning projects will be announced in September and celebrated at the sixth World Innovation Summit for Education, November 4-6, 2014, in Doha, Qatar. Each will receive $20,000 (US).

For further information about WISE and the WISE Awards, please go to www.wise-qatar.org or visit the WISE Awards blog: http://awardsblog.wise-qatar.org/.

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