

Media Release

Steve Dimopoulos MP

Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events
Minister for Creative Industries



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BOOSTING VICTORIAN CREATIVE CAREERS

The Andrews Labor Government is backing local artists, creatives and crews – with more than \$1 million to support career-defining research and development activities, mentorships and training.

Minister for Creative Industries Steve Dimopoulos today announced the recipients of the latest round of investment through the creative R&D program *Creators Fund*, as well as support for a program to grow the state’s crewing workforce, addressing critical staff shortages in the live music and major events sectors.

The latest round of the Creators Fund will support creative workers in fields such as fashion, music, sculpture, jewellery design, filmmaking and podcasting to build their skills and undertake the research, development and experimentation required to create groundbreaking new work.

Recipients include artist Lachlan Plain who will supercharge his career by undertaking research and development in animation and virtual reality, and jewellery designer Ella Badu who will experiment with traditional and sustainable jewellery processes.

Behind the scenes workers in the live music and events sector will also be supported with \$190,000 to back the Weasle Eicke Scholarship Program, a crew training initiative which is developed and delivered by CrewCare.

Applications are now open for the program which provides dedicated training, mentorships and placements to students studying Live Production and Sound Production, as well as casual workers from crewing companies to build their skills and gain employment in high demand roles such as lighting, sound, staging, rigging and more.

Named in honour of Victorian industry leader and veteran Wellesley “Weasle” Eicke, a highly respected lighting operator and technician who passed away in 2021, the program seeks to grow the crewing workforce and also encourages women and other underrepresented groups to pursue a career in the industry.

One in 11 Victorian workers are employed in the state’s creative economy, many of whom are gig workers. These programs support creative workers to upskill and build their careers, while ensuring Victoria has the workforce it needs to support the state’s renowned creative and events calendar, now and into the future.

Applications for the 2023 Weasle Eicke Scholarship program close on 16 June 2023, for details visit crewcare.org.au/weasle-eicke-scholarship. For a full list of Creators Fund recipients visit creative.vic.gov.au.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Creative Industries Steve Dimopoulos

“Victoria is the creative state and hundreds of thousands of workers power our \$34 billion creative economy.”

“We’re growing our creative workforce and backing workers to develop their skills, build their careers and deliver the experiences that make Victoria so unique.”