

## **Dialogue 1 Creative Resilience**

*Presented in association with Arts Queensland*

### **Rationale**

There are many national and state government funded initiatives addressing child friendly communities, the most significant being the Communities for Children federal government funded program and the child-friendly communities initiative of the National Association for the Prevention of Child Abuse & Neglect (NAPCAN). UNICEF's child-friendly cities program has also made some important headway in Australia. A discussion which can tie some of the key learnings from these large-scale projects is envisaged, with an accent of the extent to which specific arts and culturally-oriented projects have advanced the effectiveness of these interventions. In particular, the dialogue will challenge the discussion to address how community cultural development (CCD), with particular reference to arts and cultural practice, has featured in child-focussed community interventions. In do so, attempts will be made to highlight how CCD has managed to retain a foothold in many of these interventions, and furthermore, how arts and cultural activity can be more readily accommodated in their evaluation and assessment. Arts Queensland's recently released *arts, culture and me*, and the State Government's *children and young people in the arts action plan (2008-2011)* will also be a key stimulus for this discussion.

### **Focus questions**

- How can arts and cultural practice become a more recognised contributor to large place-based child-focussed community programs?
- How can performance assessment and evaluation processes in these programs more readily incorporate arts and cultural practice?
- Are there arts and cultural approaches for socio-economically disadvantaged communities that can enhance methods employed by non-arts agencies in their preventative programs?

### **Creative stimulus**

KITE Art's Education program at QPAC is an early childhood arts education initiative of Education Queensland in partnership with Queensland Performing Arts Centre (QPAC). KITE delivers relevant contemporary arts education experiences for Prep to Year 3 students and their teachers across Queensland. *Yonder* marks the first participative arts project from KITE's current vision and mode of delivery. It aims to place the children, physically and conceptually at the centre of the work utilising the mediums of film, movement and music to communicate their personal narratives and to extend their learning and engagement.

To target schools with the greatest need KITE consulted Education Queensland to chose from those belonging to the most disadvantaged category. The project brought together 69 year three students from three schools to create an innovative theatre production that presented children's thoughts and ideas about *Yonder* to an audience made up of their community. A snapshot of *Yonder* will commence this dialogue."

### **Presenters**

Featuring KITE Arts Education Program @ QPAC and facilitated by Dr Georgia Seffrin (Arts Queensland) and Assoc. Professor Geoff Woolcock (Griffith University Urban Research Program).