

auSDANCE
VIC

ANNUAL REPORT



2021 AT A GLANCE

ORGANISATIONAL SNAPSHOT

122%

growth in paid members

85%

market share of Cert II
in Dance in Victoria

7

qualifications added to our
RTO's scope for delivery

100+

direct communications
with Victorian State Gov

116

jobs for dance / sector
professionals

784

primary students engaged
in regional and rural Victoria

\$489k

in 'Get Active Kids'
vouchers to families

SECTOR SNAPSHOT

84%

of dance businesses
made a financial loss

74%

businesses eligible for
government financial
support

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Ausdance VIC acknowledges and respects the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we work and dance. Sovereignty was never ceded.

We pay respect to Elders past, present, and future.

We acknowledge the right to self-determination for First Nations People and seek to develop strong and lasting partnerships with Victorian First Peoples to achieve equity and prosperity in the communities we serve across the state.

We acknowledge the Yalukut Weelam Clan of the Boon Wurrung who are part of the Kulin Nation as the traditional custodians of the land where our office is located.

CONTENTS

Foreword from the Chairs	5
Foreword from the Executive Director	6
About Ausdance VIC	7
Dance Sector Overview	9
Advocacy	11
Membership and Marketing	17
Sector Engagement	19
Education	21
Registered Training Organisation (RTO)	23
Special Projects	26
COVID-19 Impact	27
Looking Forward	29
Board and Staff	31
Ausdance VIC Members	33
Funding Partners	37

“

We will look back on this period as a time when relationships were strengthened, when advocacy gave the sector a critical voice, and when the adaptability, resilience and creativity of the dance community shone.

Kelly Dickson
Outgoing Chair

”

FROM THE CHAIRS



Kelly Dickson
Chair
(Resigned May 2021)

Reflecting on my time as Chair, I have nothing but admiration, respect and enthusiasm for the organisation and our sector.

We will look back on this period as a time when relationships were strengthened, when advocacy gave the sector a critical voice, and when the adaptability, resilience and creativity of the dance community shone.

When more formal forms of dance were suspended - no performances, no schools - many rediscovered their love of dance on a personal, participatory level; its power to bring joy, to connect us and bear witness to our lives.

Looking to 2022, I know new Chair Helen Haines, together with the Ausdance VIC Board and Management led by Executive Director Michelle Silby, are well placed to meet the challenges ahead and partner with the sector for its ongoing health and sustainability.

Thanks to our partners, most particularly Creative Victoria, whose leadership and steadfast support through turbulent times is hugely appreciated.

“...many rediscovered their love of dance on a personal, participatory level..”



Helen Haines
Chair
(Appointed May 2021)

I became Chair of Ausdance VIC after previously serving as Treasurer for three years. 2021 was a difficult year for everyone and the dance community in Victoria was no exception.

Ausdance VIC stepped up to ensure that the dance sector was kept fully informed of COVID-19 restrictions and was aware of all avenues to be explored in terms of financial and other assistance.

The entire team worked tirelessly, with the membership and marketing staff in particular having to digest, understand and interpret often complicated and rapidly changing advice from health officials regarding when, where, and how studios, dance schools, theatres, and rehearsal spaces could safely open.

It was disappointing that the Australian Youth Dance Festival had to be postponed due to state border closures and travel restrictions.

I know the Ausdance VIC program staff and the festival team will bounce back in 2022 to present a fabulous program of dancing, education, and spirited debate.

Despite all that the pandemic threw at us, Ausdance VIC was able to progress a number of initiatives such as Blue Sky Dance which reached a record number of regional schools across Victoria and was well received by all associated with it.

We also had a ‘win’ when our recommendation to promote healthy movement for kids by incorporating dance into the Get Active Kids program was adopted. Thousands of families benefited from the voucher scheme, and it was also an economic benefit to a sector hit hard by loss of revenue.

As our success with Get Active Kids demonstrates, advocacy work continues to be the driving force for Ausdance VIC and this is reflected in the ambitious Strategic Plan that was developed by the team and our engaged Board members.

Overall, despite the impact of COVID-19, 2021 was a productive year for Ausdance VIC and if 2022 is half of what we expect it to be, the year ahead promises to be incredible too.

“...advocacy work continues to be the driving force for Ausdance VIC.”

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Michelle Silby

2021 was a difficult year for everyone in the dance sector. Like our communities across the country and the world, Victorian dancers, teachers, choreographers, companies, dance studios and fans were unable to gather for most of the year, but we all took advantage of those rare occasions when we could meet to learn, participate and enjoy dance activities.

I'm proud of the work we did to support independent dance artists through some of the worst lockdown moments by developing a partnership with a collective known as the Think Tank Dance Assembly (TTDA). We facilitated a grant that went directly to the hundreds of artists in the form of paid attendance at TTDA functions. The result is a remarkable body of work called DAMN Writing that provides a powerful commentary on the dance scene in Melbourne and beyond.

Furthermore, we can be proud of the success of the Get Active Kids program. Get Active Kids is a voucher system that subsidises the cost for parents of their children's participation in physical activity. It has improved the lives of thousands of families across the state. The inclusion of dance in this initiative was a direct result of our advocacy with the Victorian Government.

The second year of COVID-19 also highlights the ongoing importance of our advocacy work, raising the needs of the sector directly with the Victorian Government. We also successfully pivoted to online engagement to connect with students, industry peers and our members thanks to the efforts of Ausdance VIC staff who were mostly working remotely but who remained in good spirits despite the difficulties.

Overall—and despite the pandemic—this year has demonstrated the resilience of the dance sector and the importance of the work we do to champion dance, dancers and the dance family in Victoria.

I would like to thank our hardworking Board and team for their incredible efforts in 2021 and I look forward to working with our members and sector in 2022.

The voice for dance in Victoria.

Ausdance VIC is the peak body and subject association for dance in Victoria. We play a key role in providing high level strategic advice and vision for the sector, supporting individuals, companies, and organisations to flourish. We work across all levels of dance, creating connections and opportunities to increase the capacity of the sector.

We champion the role of dance in promoting health, lifelong learning, and social wellbeing agendas, which contribute to the wider community's physical, mental, social, and economic health. We support and encourage diversity and diverse artistic visions and goals. We provide industry relevant information and networks.

Our history.

Founded in 1977, Ausdance VIC is an independent organisation with sister organisations nationwide which collectively form the national Ausdance network. The Ausdance network has a history spanning over 45 years – formed for the Australian dance sector by its leaders and advocates. Ausdance National has a unique place in the Australian dance environment, as a leader in dance advocacy and in bringing new resources and research to the profession through partnerships and collaborations.

The work of Ausdance VIC includes advocacy to government at all levels on behalf of the state-wide dance sector, services to our members, and collaborative projects to promote dance to the wider community.

We provide a range of education initiatives, including managing a Registered Training Organisation that delivers accredited training with partners throughout the country.

Ausdance VIC also develops, promotes and supports a sustainable program of dance development projects, including large scale public events, and the biennial Australian Youth Dance Festival.



We seek to use our voice
effectively in concert...

...with our members and stakeholders
for the benefit of **all Victorians.**

Image: Adelaide and Charlie Second Echo Ensemble.
Photo: Dan Cripps

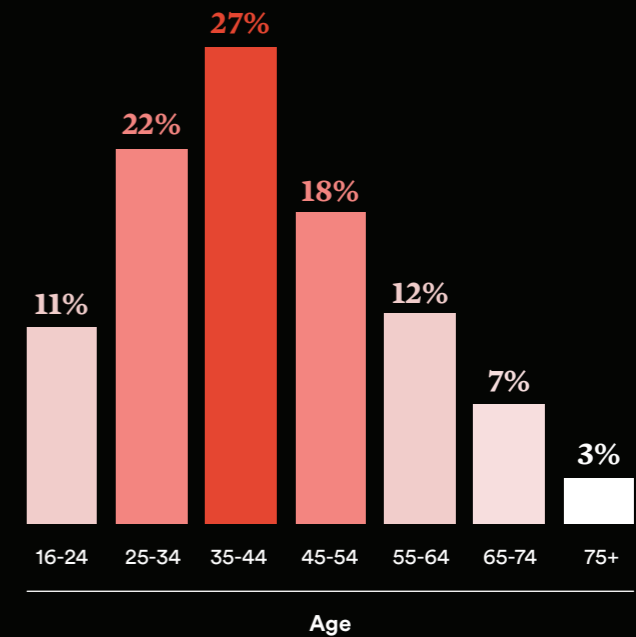
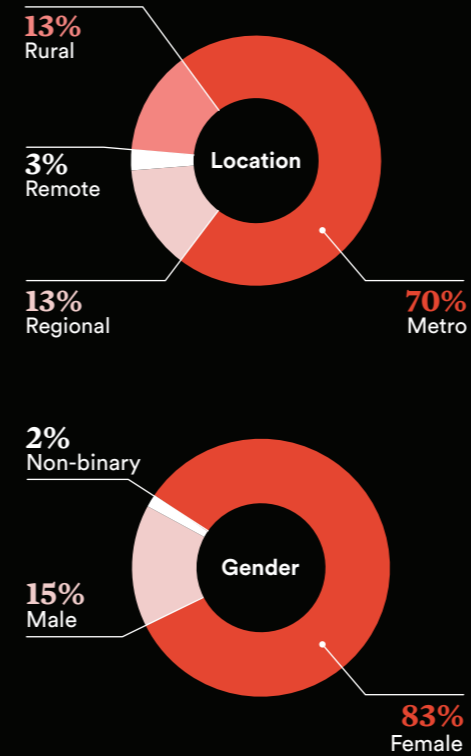
DANCE SECTOR OVERVIEW

The Victorian dance sector is in recovery mode from two years of heavy restrictions. We are strong, vibrant and supported by a diverse ecosystem including independent dancers, professional dance artists, dance educators and teachers, dance studios, small, medium, and major performing arts companies as well as venues, training organisations, and recreational groups.

At the heart of the dance community are the hundreds of thousands of dance students and participants of all ages, genders and backgrounds across metropolitan, regional and rural Victoria.

Melbourne is widely acknowledged as the 'arts capital of Australia', and this accolade brings with it a responsibility to also be the 'arts education capital' supporting a vibrant professional arts scene.

Victoria currently hosts one of the largest cohorts of private dance education pathways for dancers, with recognised full-time training being available across fifty providers statewide. Ausdance VIC works cooperatively with our partners in dance education to support a diverse range of learning opportunities.



QUICK LOOK



5.6hrs

Average time students spend dancing each week



97%

say dance contributes to positive health and wellbeing



8%

First Nations or Aboriginal Australians



3%

Torres Strait Islander



8%

culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD)



84%

can see themselves dancing in 3 years



64%

feel positive about their future/career in dance

2%

Deaf, deaf or hard of hearing

6%

living with a disability

12%

living with a diagnosed mental illness

Data source: Ausdance VIC Annual Sector Survey 2021

Data source: Ausdance VIC Annual Sector Survey 2021



Our consistent advocacy for dance and our clear communication with the sector provided a level of certainty to our stakeholders and the dance community.



OUR ADVOCACY WORK IS ONGOING, AND INCLUDES SHORT-TERM CAMPAIGNS TO ADDRESS IMMEDIATE NEEDS AND **LONG-TERM STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT.**


Get Active Kids

The **Get Active Kids Voucher Program** helps eligible families get their kids involved in sport and active recreation activities with \$200 vouchers.

The inclusion of dance and initiation of the voucher program is an outcome of several lines of advocacy by Ausdance VIC to the Victorian Government. We proposed the voucher scheme at an interdepartmental meeting where our research and recommendations were discussed, and then adopted by the State Government in 2020.

Our advocacy made a real contribution to the outcome which saw \$21 million allocated to the program across all sport and recreation activities.

During 2021 we engaged in consultation with the Department of Sports and Recreation for the expansion of eligible ages within the voucher program, now open for children aged 0-18 years.

 **\$489k**
for dance in top five activities

 **2447**
'Get Active Kids' vouchers to families

National COVID-19 Advocacy

We worked alongside our national peak body, Ausdance National, to better understand the impacts of COVID-19 on the dance sector at the federal level. The strength, collaboration and integrated focus of the Ausdance network was invaluable in a combined, interstate response to urgent need for communication and advocacy. As in other states, part of the COVID-19 response was federal, while other initiatives were made available at a state and local government level.

Training and Industry

We consulted with VETASSESS and the Federal Department of Education, Skills and Employment to advise and implement changes to assessment criteria of dancer occupations that reflect industry standards, opening the way for teachers, dance artists and choreographers in a wide array of styles and backgrounds to work in Australia.

Particular focus was placed on the safe operation of businesses, financial support, and the health regulations that affected rehearsals, classes, and performances.

Image: Students of Melbourne Studio of Ballet.
Photo: Chris Dowd

TO SUPPORT THE DANCE SECTOR THROUGH THE TIME OF PANDEMIC-INFLUENCED UNCERTAINTY, WE FOCUSED ON CLEAR COMMUNICATION AND STRONG ADVOCACY.

Image: Trevor Santos in '100 Haikus' (2021) by Trevor Santos. Photo: Cameron Grant, Parenthesy.



COVID-19 SECTOR ADVOCACY AND INDUSTRY SUPPORT

We attended 25 high-level government meetings specifically about restrictions and industry impacts. We were able to communicate clear, concise, relevant and accurate information directly from the government to the dance sector. We advocated for the needs of the dance sector directly to the state government.

We worked closely with the Minister for Health, the Minister for Small Business, The Minister for Creative Industries and the Minister for Education, as well as their departments to ensure communications were correct and concise.

Through this period we;

- Championed requests from the sector to The Department of Health and Business Victoria for dance studios, companies, and venues to be represented under Creative Studios in Restricted Activity Directions (RADs) rather than Indoor Physical Recreation to better represent how dance businesses operate.
- Requested clearer guidelines for vaccination requirements for children, resulting in under 18s being exempt from having to show vaccination status.
- Collaborated with the State Government to provide clear information on future vaccine requirements for the dance sector, within the COVID-19 Roadmap out of Lockdown, and after reaching Stage 4 of the National Plan.
- Urged the Victorian State Government for RADs to be released prior to changes taking effect, a process that has been adopted with the introduction of Pandemic Orders under the pandemic laws passed in December.
- Responding to requests from the sector, we successfully advocated for ANZSIC Code 8212 to be re-included in the Business Costs Assistance Program statewide, following a change to eligibility criteria. We raised this issue directly with relevant ministers and departments. On our advice, all dance-related ANZSIC codes were included in dance businesses receiving critical financial support.
- Made a recommendation to government departments that dance businesses be permitted to enter their premises for live broadcast or to stream classes / rehearsals during lockdowns. This permission was granted, allowing dance studios and companies access to deliver this service.
- Petitioned the State Government for dance studios and dance companies to be provided with, or to receive a subsidy to purchase, CO2 reducing air-conditioners and/or purifiers for their fixed premise to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission. In February 2022 the State Government announced a \$60 million Ventilation Voucher Program.



Image Inset: Dancehouse Winter Workshops, Aniyah & Carlos Devine. Photo: Alec Perne

Image Below: Student Alana Pulis and teacher Matt Mitchell at RPA Studios Kilmore. Photo: Tess Pittaway



As the state peak body for dance, Ausdance VIC takes pride in its enduring and productive relationships with government departments, agencies, private enterprise, and peer industry associations.

AUSDANCE VIC REPRESENTATION ON INDUSTRY BODIES

We champion the role of dance in promoting health, lifelong learning, and social wellbeing agendas, which contribute to the wider community's physical, mental, social, and economic health.

As the state peak body for dance, Ausdance VIC takes pride in its enduring and productive relationships with government departments, agencies, private enterprise, and peer industry associations. Our Executive Director, Michelle Silby sits on several committees and advisory bodies across the arts sector including:

- **AICV, Arts Industry Council (Victoria):** AICV is made up of the CEOs of peak bodies and service organisations across all art forms. The AICV collectively advocates for the needs of the arts sector to the government. In 2021 the AICV oversaw the Sustaining Creative Workers Grants, which delivered quick-response funding of over \$4.8 million to independent creative practitioners, sole traders, freelancers, collectives, groups and micro-organisations/businesses. This funding was directed to diverse and regional artists: 39% to CALD artists, 30% to regional artists, 21% to Deaf and/or disabled artists and 12% to First Nations artists.
- **IAG, Industry Advisory Group, representing Arts & Culture for Victoria:** IAG's provide advice on matters including skill demand pressures and future industry skills training and professional needs.
- **IRC, Independent Reference Committee, Arts & Culture:** The Committee looks at the training needs of the industry and assesses current and proposed new training qualifications. The IRC four-year work plan is endorsed by the Victorian Government.

Ongoing Sector and Government Meetings

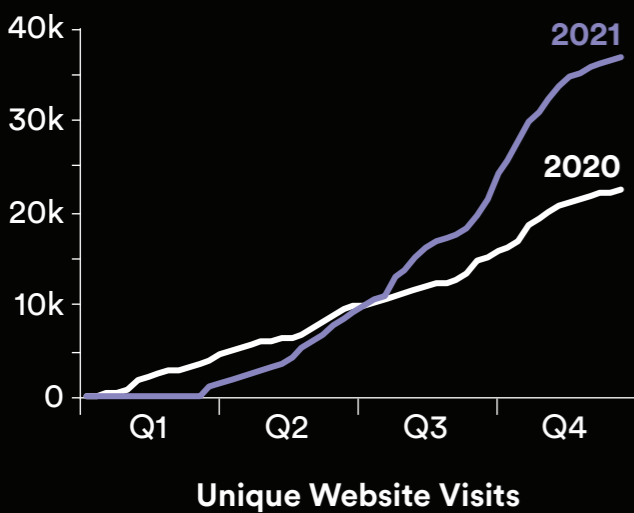
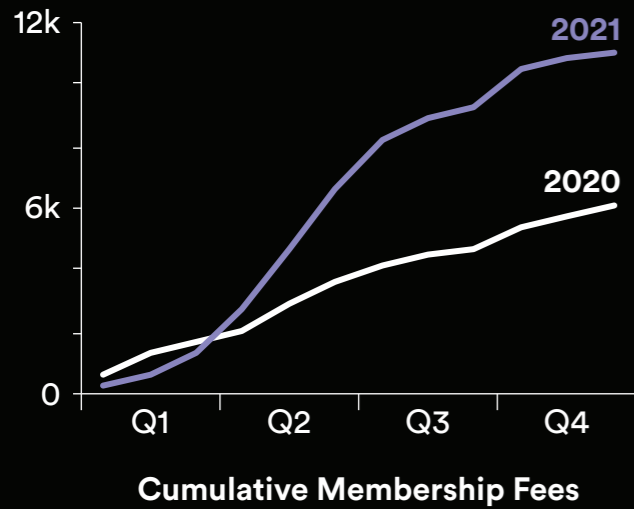
- Creative Victoria
- Department of Education and Training
- Department of Sports and Recreation
- Small to medium dance companies
- Independent artists and independent organisations
- Major performing arts companies
- Dance studios, training providers and syllabus associations

Listening to our Sector

In November and December we undertook an extensive sector survey to hear directly from the people who make up the dance sector. The survey will be conducted annually giving Ausdance VIC critical data to monitor trends across the sector and support our dance development efforts.

Image: Deanne Butterworth, Alice Dixon, Benjamin Hurley in 'Slow Calm Drama' (2021), by Deanne Butterworth.
Photo: Arun Munoz.

MEMBERSHIP AND MARKETING



Website Visitors Source

Search	56%
Direct	18%
Social Media	10%
Referral	9%
Other	7%

 **122%**
increase
in paid members

Email Database

6,243



Social Media Followers

8,123



Website Views

80,036



Owned Reach

496,864



Published Media Articles

16



Membership

We focussed on more effectively communicating our memberships to the sector, emphasising the benefits associated with peak body membership. Collectively, each voice from our membership strengthens our voice to the government. Our renewed focus on growing and better serving our membership has resulted in a substantial increase in paid memberships over the past 24 months while continuing to provide free memberships to those heavily impacted by the pandemic.

The increased capacity to service members via our new website, and very visible work in advocacy and support during COVID-19, contributed to our growth as the sector relied heavily on our resources to assist them through a very difficult year.

New Website

The new Ausdance VIC website launched in March after several months of design and development. The primary objective of the new website is to build a platform which serves three key purposes;

1. Better serve our members
2. Better inform the wider sector
3. Better represent the Ausdance VIC brand

This new website allows us to post public and member-only content and manage visitor interactions with greater integration to our Client Relationship Management (CRM) program. We can easily update the sector with critical information and provide parallel exclusive updates, offers and services to members.

The new website has delivered a 93% increase in website visits compared to 2020, for the adjusted period of March to December.

“To support a still-struggling sector, we reduced our membership fees by half and added an ‘Unwaged Membership’ option.”



Image: Emily Shoemith, Melissa Tan, Aimee Schollum in 'MOTH' (2021) by Aimee Schollum.
Photo: Gregory Lorenzutti.



2,813 Livestream views.
(Australian Dance Week)

SECTOR ENGAGEMENT

Think Tank Dance Assembly (TTDA)

Ausdance VIC partnered with TTDA, a collective of 200 independent dance artists to deliver high level research, discussion, and documentation on independence dance practice - its nuances, challenges and diverse practices. Ausdance VIC secured \$40,000 in funding from Creative Victoria's Strategic Investment Fund Stage 2 to auspice this work.

The outcomes were:

- A series of workshops to articulate the sector's concerns
- Aid to support mental health initiatives
- Direct financial support to artists
- A collection of reflective writings published as 'DAMN Writing'

Australian Dance Week

The Ausdance network celebrates and promotes dance in all its forms every year during Australian Dance Week, held during the first week of May. This celebration has been running for over 30 years and raises the profile of dance, focussing on the values, importance and cultural contribution of dance to the Australian community.

For Australian Dance Week we streamed four lunchtime classes, showcasing the diversity of skills and styles of our members. The streamed videos attracted a great level of interest and engagement on social media and were also used as a resource for years 7-10 dance teachers.

The four sessions were presented by:

- Cat of Jungle City with Dancehall
- Jagriti Bhati of Ignite Bollywood
- Saari Frochot-Chauhan of Zfit Studios Bendigo with Music Theatre
- Gracieuse Amah of Kwabo with Afro-Dance



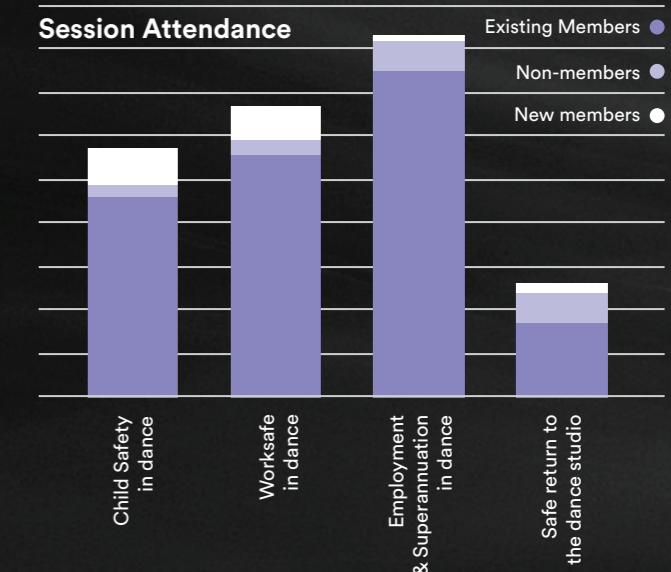
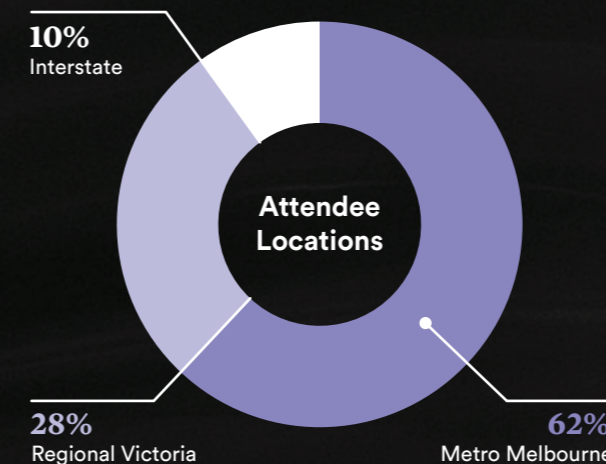
Revamped in 2021, Inside Dance presents a program of professional development seminars delivered by qualified industry professionals, created to strengthen the knowledge of the sector.

This program is ongoing, and the direct result of Ausdance VIC listening to members and feedback about the needs of the sector.

The series included:

- Child Safety in Dance with Emily Sanders, Director, Regulation at the Commission for Children and Young People
- WorkSafe 101 with Inspector, Marnie Ross
- Superannuation and Employment in Dance with Suzanne Derry, Senior Solicitor and Director at Arts Law
- Safe Return to the Studio with Gabrielle Davidson, Dance Physiotherapist

The free seminars are part of our member service and non-members may attend for a nominal fee. The online sessions were well attended and the series will continue in 2022 due to outstanding feedback from members and non-members from across the state.



EDUCATION

Blue Sky Dance

Blue Sky Dance is a blended arts education program delivered by Ausdance VIC and funded through the Department of Education and Training (DET) to 15 rural and regional primary schools each year from 2021-2023. The target cohort is primary school students across grades 3-4 and 5-6. The program was delivered both virtually and face-to-face and aligned to the Victorian Curriculum.

The program ran in term two and three and incorporated a private resource page for classroom teachers on the Ausdance VIC website with high-quality recordings, lesson and unit plans, and community of practice sessions. This program provided employment opportunities for the sector.



Image: Blue Sky Dance Educators
Photo: Robert Wagner

Creative Ageing Through Dance

In 2021 Ausdance VIC completed course development and curriculum design for a new, nationally accredited training course, Creative Ageing Through Dance. This course fully realises the recommendations of the 2018 research report Teaching and Leading Dance to Older People, authored and led by Dr Katrina Rank.

The four part program will train dance and allied health professionals to safely teach and facilitate dance and expressive movement activities to older people. This course will utilise a hybrid learning model, with in-person and online elements delivered through aNewSpring. The course will be delivered to the first student cohort in 2022.

Creative Ageing Through Dance key achievements:

- 1** Learning program and curriculum for Modules 1-4 designed
- 2** Module 1: An Introduction to Creative Ageing Through Dance developed as online course and beta-tested
- 3** Module 2: Developing Practice - Creative Ageing Through Dance developed as an in-person, blended learning and fully online course
- 4** Successful application to the Australian Skills and Quality Authority (ASQA) to place CUASS00059 - Creative Ageing Dance Teaching Skill Set on Ausdance VIC RTO's scope of registration

aNewSpring - Learning Management System

Early 2021, we implemented a new Learning Management System (LMS) with funding from Creative Victoria's Strategic Investment Fund Stage 2 grant. The new LMS from aNewSpring has the capacity to host the online component of all our training courses and professional learning programs.

This LMS integrates with the VETtrak Student Management System used for all student enrolments in accredited courses. We partnered with acclaimed LMS designers, Strawberry Fields, to develop a streamlined, interactive and easy to use interface so that students can easily navigate through their courses.



12

live-streamed sessions delivered.

12

high-definition dance classes recorded and shared by DET on the FUSE website.

6

interim classes recorded to provide continuity for students during the fifth COVID-19 lockdown.

784

primary students engaged in rural and regional Victoria through incursions.

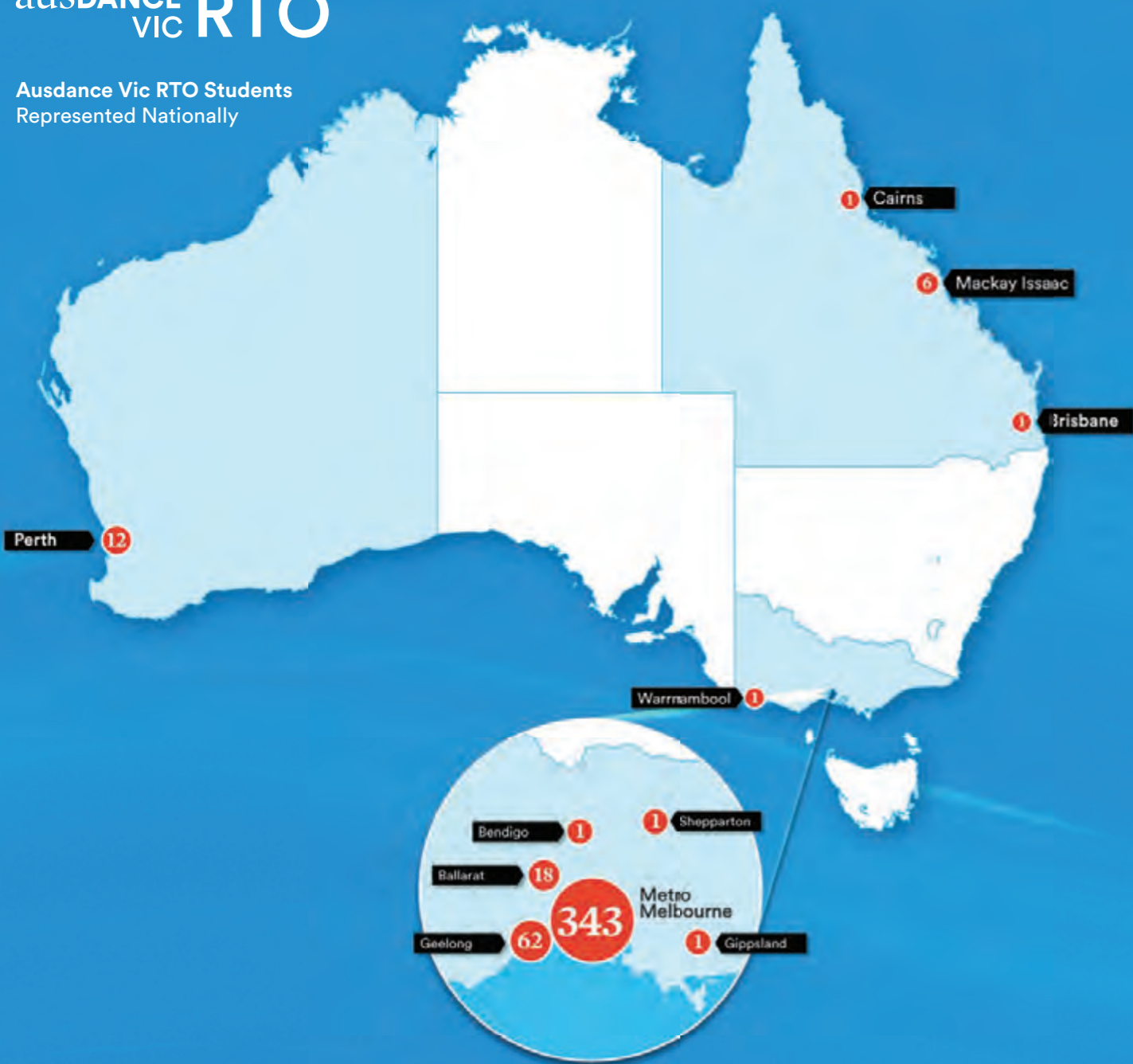
375

views of recorded lessons.

BLUE SKY
auSDANCE
VIC



Image: Takeshi Kondo filming Blue Sky Dance lessons.
Photo: Robert Wagner



Accredited training. Recognised career.

84%

market share of VCE VET dance students

30

education partners

79%

Australian school participation

447

VCE VET Certificate II in Dance students

The Ausdance VIC Registered Training Organisation (RTO) has been operating for over 21 years, and is a key avenue for us to support dance and dance education in Victoria.

We have consistently delivered CUA20120 Certificate II in Dance via VET Delivered to Secondary Schools (VDSS) programs providing opportunities for students to pursue a career in dance through achieving recognised qualifications that meet stringent quality control standards.

2021 was a big year for our RTO, we made significant strides to extend our scope of registration, established formal partnerships with major industry providers and consulted with the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) to implement changes to the VCE and VCAL certification process.

While achieving key business development milestones, the RTO successfully met all compliance obligations and managed the beginning to end process of 400+ students within our VCE VET Cert II in Dance course.

Our increased number of qualifications will support career development and lifelong learning in dance.

Extended Scope of Registration

Developments made in 2021 will ensure our RTO provides an accredited and recognised career pathway for anyone choosing dance as a profession or skill set.

The qualification pathways offered by Ausdance VIC will increase employment opportunities and raise the professional standards within the dance sector to support the next generation of dancers. Over the 2022–2025 period our scope of registration will provide a clear pathway for lifelong learning as we deliver the following qualifications:

Qualifications	Skill sets
CUA20120 Certificate II in Dance	CUASS00059 Creative Ageing Dance Teaching Skill Set*
CUA30120 Certificate III in Dance	CUASS00071 Dance Teaching Skill Set*
CUA40120 Certificate IV in Dance [^]	CUASS00110 Working with Children in Performing Arts Skill Set*
CUA40320 Certificate IV in Dance Teaching and Management*	CUASS00111 Assistant Dance Teaching Skill Set*
CUA40520 Certificate IV in Musical Theatre [^]	
CUA50220 Diploma of Musical Theatre*	
CUA51520 Diploma of Professional Dance (Elite Performance)*	

Units of Competency

CUADAN118	Develop foundational Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander dance techniques [^]
CUADAN214	Perform basic Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander dance techniques [^]
CUADAN312	Increase depth of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander dance techniques [^]

* Qualifications successfully added to scope of registration in 2021
[^] Qualifications and units to be added to the RTO's scope of registration in 2022

RTO PARTNERSHIPS

In 2021, Ausdance VIC entered into two new official partnerships with Cecchetti Ballet Australia and Patrick School of the Arts to further develop the accredited training that we have added to our scope.

Cecchetti Ballet Australia is a globally recognised leader in ballet education, and Patrick School of the Arts is one of the largest dance schools in Australia offering VET and tertiary dance education.

Our partnership with these organisations presents an opportunity to extend the work of our RTO, in the following ways:

- Extend our reach in delivering quality education courses to the dance sector whilst maintaining low running costs;
- Extend the reach of Ausdance VIC qualifications to now include experienced dancers wishing to continue their dance education;
- Create more opportunities for experienced dancers to participate in study to further their dance career and education; and
- Strengthen the skills and career opportunities in the dance sector.

INDUSTRY AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAYS

Opportunities to hold professional development and industry day events for VET dance trainers and students were limited in 2021 due to COVID-19 restrictions however we successfully delivered three key events:

Professional development day: The Space Dance and Arts Centre on Wurundjeri country with lecturers: Gabrielle Davidson and Narelle Forbes from InSync Physiotherapy and Pilates, Kelly Aykers and Katrina Rank.

60 VET dance students attended an industry day in Geelong on Waddawurrung country, hosted by Cat Yee and Courtney Yengi from Geelong High School and taught by Zoe Marsh and Tony Keeble.

120 VET dance students attended an industry day held at Ministry of Dance in North Melbourne on Wurundjeri country taught by Kiara Keiser, Zoe Marsh, Efen Pacmilacan and Kassie Martin.

Image: Ausdance VIC Industry Day
Photo: Vlad Slavin



SPECIAL PROJECTS

Australian Youth Dance Festival (AYDF)

The biennial Australian Youth Dance Festival was scheduled for July 2021 and co-artistic directors, Caitlin Comerford and Kyall Shanks, were appointed to curate the event on behalf of Ausdance VIC and Youth Dance Australia (YDA).

Unfortunately, due to travel restrictions and other public health measures, it became clear that the 2021 AYDF event would be severely compromised in scope and reach if it went ahead.

The difficult decision to postpone the festival till 2022 was made due to border closures.

AYDF will resume in 2022 with the same artistic directors. City of Melbourne and The University of Melbourne, Faculty of Fine Arts and Music (VCA) have confirmed a rollover of their support.



Image: AYDF2019 Workshop

Performing Arts Festival of South Asia and Diaspora

Presented by Dancehouse in partnership with Sangam, this is a community, and a space for established and emerging Victorian artists from diverse backgrounds to learn, create and showcase their art alongside globally renowned artists from the Diaspora. Held biennially, the 2021 Sangam festival showcased over 100 artists across four venues over four weekends.

In 2021, Ausdance VIC contributed marketing for the festival and supported a panel discussion: Marginality, Power and Representation. The panel discussed the intersection of the rights of representation and power by marginal voices from three perspectives: First Nations artists in Australia, marginal artists in India, and South Asian artists in Australia.

The panel explored how power is contested, how voices can be reimagined, and bodies re-represented in different sites and lands.



Image: Sangam Workshop

COVID-19 IMPACT

QUICK LOOK

12%
of workers feel very secure in their work.

93%
of individuals are fully vaccinated.

74%
of businesses were eligible for support payments.

84%
of businesses made a loss.

COVID-19 Response

Like many populations, businesses and organisations across the world, dance activity was heavily impacted by COVID-19 lockdowns and public health restrictions. Ausdance VIC undertook extensive work to provide coherent information and sector specific updates, including direct responses to individual and organisation queries.

Staff made an extraordinary effort to understand, clarify and communicate information from government agencies at all levels.

In addition to communicating with the dance sector, we engaged directly with the Victorian Government, providing feedback and recommendations about the impacts of COVID restrictions. Representations were made to the government regarding business and individual support grants. For further information on COVID-19 advocacy, please refer to page 13.

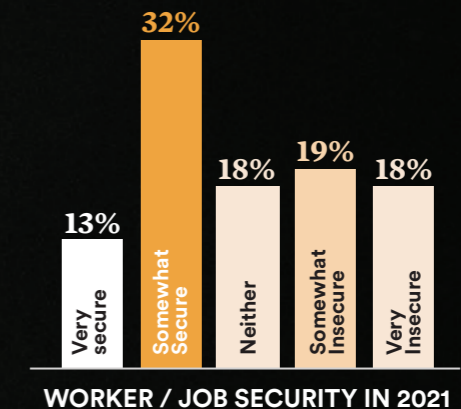
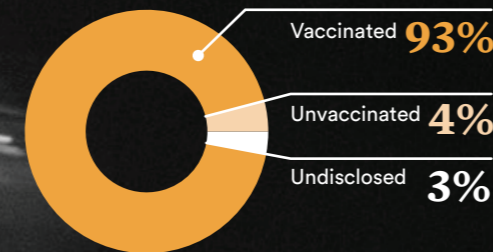
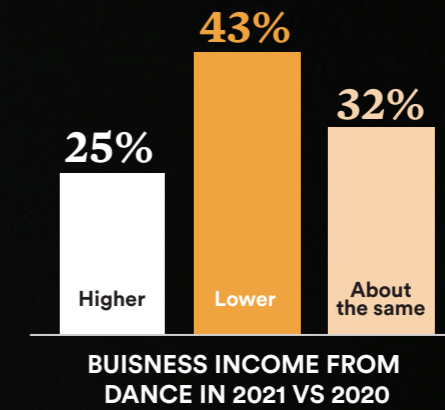
Organisational Arrangements

Ausdance VIC staff followed the state government's advice regarding working from home arrangements throughout 2021 and utilised online collaboration tools while maintaining our Yarraville location as our primary address.

While this has not been ideal, staff found this to be an effective way to deliver on programs in a COVID-19 safe manner. Towards the end of 2021, the team was able to hold face-to-face meetings outside of the office.

Image: Isabelle Beauverd, Piaera Lauritz, Emma Riches in 'Bodylex' (2021) by Rhys Ryan.
Photo: James Lauritz.

Our work centred on **supporting members** and the sector to understand and access up-to-date information about public health orders, business activities, vaccine requirements and critical financial support.



5.5 months
metropolitan dance activities closed or heavily restricted

4 months
regional dance activities closed or heavily restricted

Data source: Ausdance VIC Annual Sector Survey 2021

Looking forward.

Strategic Planning 2022-2025

Throughout the second half of 2021, Ausdance VIC engaged in a series of consultations and workshops with stakeholders and members to set a series of strategic priorities for the organisation's 2022-2025 Strategic Plan. As a result of this process, a renewed vision, mission and purpose were established. Our new Strategic Plan builds on our success and the needs of the dance sector recovering from a pandemic, and will extend the reach and impact of Ausdance VIC throughout Victoria.



Image: Artists Urlik Mageza & Yolande Arinda of L2R Igniting Legends Program in Footscray Park.
Photo: Kimberley Summer

VISION

All Victorians have access to opportunities to experience and engage with dance.

As the peak body for dance in Victoria, Ausdance VIC wants to see the following outcomes:

- 1** A First People's lens shaping all aspects of Ausdance VIC policy, strategy and programs.
- 2** Dance and the dance sector thrive in remote, rural, and metropolitan areas of Victoria.
- 3** All Victorians have access to participate in, and engage with dance.
- 4** Greater diversity and inclusion in dance; a range of people, places, and practice across the state engaging in dance as a career and/or for creative, recreational, and health purposes.

Our new Strategic Plan aims to empower and enable positive outcomes for dance in Victoria.

MISSION

To advocate for, create, support, and promote opportunities for dance in Victoria, and invest in its ongoing development.

Ausdance VIC will provide high level strategic advice and vision for the sector. Ausdance VIC supports dance individuals, companies, and organisations in a coherent ecology of arts services, enabling its members and partners to flourish, creating connections and opportunities to increase the capacity of the sector, and delivering activities for, and in, communities across Victoria.

The organisation works across all levels of dance practice to promote creativity, health, lifelong learning and engagement, and social wellbeing agendas, contributing to the wider community's physical, mental, social, and economic wellbeing.

PRIORITIES

- 1.** Our members are engaged and well supported
- 2.** Support and development of the dance sector to build resilience, capacity, and capability
- 3.** To work for the benefit of all Victorians
- 4.** Sustainably grow the Ausdance VIC RTO
- 5.** Building Ausdance VIC's organisational capacity

BOARD AND STAFF

Board Attendance

Board Member	Role	Tenure	Meeting #1 FEB	Meeting #2 MAY	Meeting #3 AUG	Strategic Planning	Meeting #4 NOV
Kelly Dickson	Chair	Until May	●				
Helen Haines	Chair	From May		●	●	●	●
Amity Jarvis	Deputy Chair	All year	●	●	●	●	●
Helen Haines	Treasurer	Until May	●				
Kate Outridge	Treasurer	From May		●	●	●	●
Amy Jennings	Secretary	Until May	○				
Carmen Pace	Secretary	From May		●	●	●	●
Kate Deneborough	Committee	Until Feb	●				
Alisdair Macindoe	Committee	All year	●	●	●	●	●
Rhys Holden	Committee	From May		●	●	●	●

○ Eligible but did not attend ● Attended

Staff

Michelle Silby
Executive Director
[0.6 FTE], working from Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung land

Robbie Carmellotti
General Manager
[1.0 FTE], working from Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung land

Dr Katrina Rank
Director of Education and Lifelong Learning
[0.6 FTE], working from Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung land

Jess Zintschenko
Associate Producer, Programs and Events
[0.8 FTE], working from Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung land

Cathy Smith
RTO Manager
[0.8 FTE] (until June), working from Bunurong land

Gillian Jordan
RTO Operations Coordinator
[0.7 FTE] (from July), working from Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung land

Special thanks to our 2021 staff who have moved on from the organisation. As a small not-for-profit, we are always engaged with extremely passionate staff, and it is a privilege to work alongside like-minded people at all levels of their career.

This past year we thank Shweta Kawatra, Cathy Smith, Jess Zintschenko and Megan Segat for their commitment, passion and dedication to dance.

Shweta Kawatra
Marketing and Communications Manager
[0.6 FTE] (until March), working from Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung and Boonwurrung land

Alison McIntosh-Deszcz
Marketing and Membership Coordinator
[0.6 FTE] (until March)
Manager Marketing, Memberships and Digital Media
[0.8 FTE] (from March)
Working from Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung land

Dr Martin Hirst, Communications Officer
[0.25 FTE], working from Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung land

Holly Marshall, Dance Educator
Working from Boon Wurrung / Bunurong land

Annette Courtney, Dance Educator
Working from Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung land

Meghan Segat, Dance Educator
Working from Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung land

Artists, creatives, and educators employed by Ausdance VIC in 2021:

These creative practitioners worked across: TTDA, Inside Dance, Industry Days, Professional Development Days, Digital Developments, AYDF 2021 and Sector Connect Sessions.

Adrien Tucker
Aimee Schollum
Alec Katsourakis
Alexander Powers
Alexandra Dobson
Alice Dixon
Alice Robinson
Alicia Axnick
Amber Lester
Arabella Franh-Starkie
Ben Scarmozzino
Benjamin Hancock
Brittany Page
Bronwen Kamasz
Caitlin Comerford
Caitlin Dear
Charlie Byrnes
Charlotte Smith Hoppe
Chelsea Byrne
Claire Bird
Claire Leske
Damian Smith
Deanne Butterworth
Devika Bilimoira
Efren Pamilacan
Emma Riches
Emma Ritchies
Erin O'Rourke
Felix Palmerson
Finnian Langham

Gabriela Green
Greta Jean
Gülsen Özer
Hannah Friebel
Hayley Roe
Hillary Goldsmith
InSync Physiotherapy
Jennifer Barry
Joanne Griggs
Josephine Lopes
Jule Small
Kassie Martin
Kelly Aykers
Kiara Keiser
Kyll Shanks
Lachlan Broughton
Leslie Graham
Lilian Steiner
Luke Fryer
Luke Zawadzki
Michaela Ottone
Michaela Tancheff
Nebahat Erpolat
Oonagh Slater
Piara Lauritz
Prue Lang
Rachel Mackie
Rebecca Jensen
Rhys Ryan
Roslyn Helper

Sarah Aiken
Sarah Shahinian Zawadzki
Scott Elstermann
Shelley O'Meara
Shian Law
Shweta Kawatra
Siobhan Mckenna
Susannah Keebler
Takeshi Kondo
Thomas Woodman
Tom Mullane
Toney Keeble
Will Barker
William McBride
Zoe Marsh

...and our 29 RTO Trainers

Volunteers and Interns:

As a not-for-profit and membership-based organisation, Ausdance VIC appreciates the work done by volunteers.

We also support opportunities for students to undertake work experience and complete internships with us. In 2021 we were restricted with activities we could deliver due to COVID-19 restrictions, however we were lucky enough to work with passionate people in a volunteering capacity.

Benjamin Cure
Emily Sanders
Georgia McIntosh-Deszcz
Jennifer van Bronswijk
Marnie Ross
Suzanne Derry

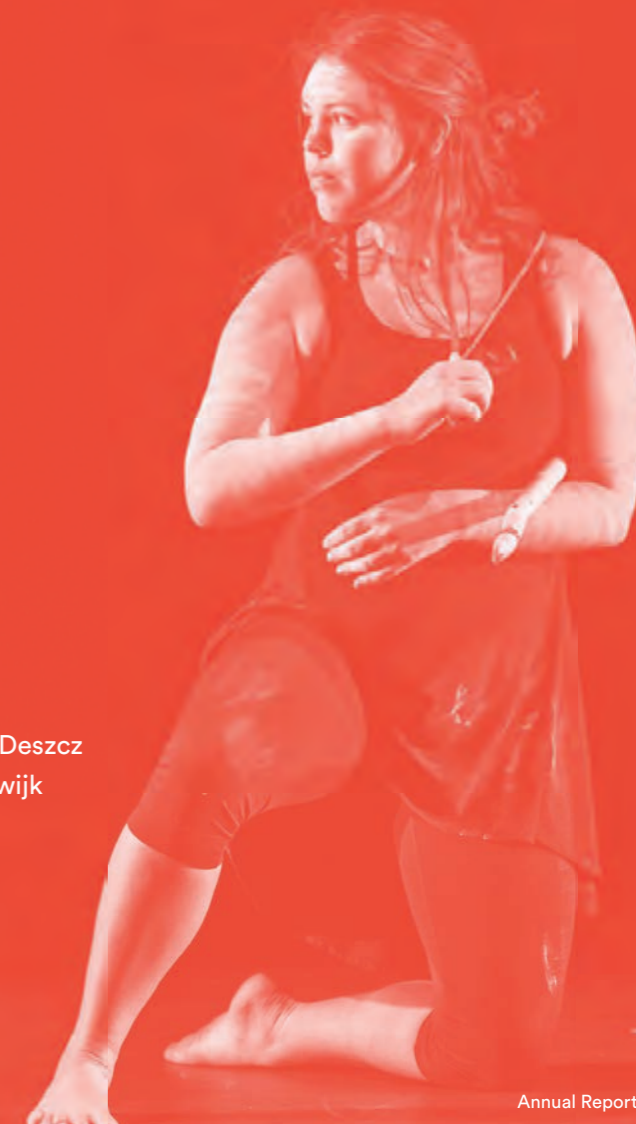


Image: Wagana and DUST Youth Dancers AYDF 2019

Thanks, to our 2021 members.

ORGANISATIONAL MEMBERS

A Dance Journey
Alanna's Theatre And Dance Studio
Albright Performers
Alley Catz
Altitude Dance
Am Dance Company
Ambitions Performance Dancers
Art Evolutions Dance School
Aspect Motion School Of Dance
Attitude Dance Company
Australian Academy Of Dance
Azura's Oasis
Backstage Dance Academy
Ballarat Centre Of Music & The Arts
Ballarat Dance Works
Beat Dance School
Beat Entertainment
Beau-rock Ballet School
Bell-rose Academy Of Dance
Bg Dance Academy
Billy Lids Theatre Company
Bilton Academy Of Irish Dancing
Black Cat Dance Studios
Bold Dance & Arts
Border Danceworks
Border Show Business Academy
Breeze Entertainment Pty Ltd
Bsod
Cardee Dance Studio
Carmel Amelia School Of Dance
Castlemaine Ballet Academy
Castlemaine Circus Inc
Cathy-lea Dance Works
Cecchetti Ballet Australia
Centrestage Pty Ltd
Charlesworth Walsh Dance Centre
Cheryl Witchell School Of Dance
Chunky Move
Circus Fit Studio

Confident Kids Performing Arts School
+inspire Academy Of Dance And Performing Arts
Creative Arts Dance Studios
Curley Dance Studio
CV Dance Studio
Dance 4 Fitness
Dance Empire
Dance Explosion Pty Ltd
Dance Extreme Performing Arts
Dance Habit
Dance Illusions
Dance It Up Swan Hill
Dance Lab
Dance Network
Dance Partners
Dance Perform Repeat School Of Dance
Dance Revolution
Dance Union Studios
Dance United School Of Dance
Danceforce Swan Hill
Dancemajic - Derralie Coonan
Dancemindwork
Dancesation School Of Dance
Dancescape Kerang
Danceworks 114
Danceworks Geelong
Danzworx
Destination Dance
Diamond Valley Dance Academy
Director
District Dance Studio
Dream Dance Academy
Dylan Dickson Dancers
Elance Adult Ballet School
Electrix Dance Studio
Elizabeth Dillon Vocal Dance And Performing Arts
ELS School Of Dance
Energy Dance Company
Essentially Dance
Eternity Dance
Ethnodanceology

Fairway School Of Dance
Fairy Feet Dance Club
First Step Academy Of Dance
First Step Dance Arts Centre
Follow Your Dreams
For The Love Of Dance
Gippsland Academy Of Dance
Glittery Tapping Wonderland
GROOV3MENT Dance Therapy
Hamilton Dance Class
Heidelberg & District School Of Dance
Horsham School Of Dance
I-Dance Echuca
Ignite Bollywood Dance Company
Impetus Dance
Impetus Dance Theatre
Inner West Dance Melbourne
In-step Dance School
Isabelle's Academy Of Tap
Isolation Performing Arts Studio
Jamie's Academy Of Dance
Janelle's School Of Dance
Jason Coleman's Ministry Of Dance
Jeté! Exploring Dance
Jstepdance Just Imagine Performing Arts
Jump Dance Challenge
Jungle City
KADS
Karen Feldman's Dance Studio
Karlie Grace Dancers
Kats Dance
Kew School Of Dance
Kiewa Valley Dance
Kiki Dance Collective
Kikkit Dance
Kilbreda College
Kinderballet
Kindy Dance Time International Pty Ltd
Kix Dance Studio
Knox Dance
Korowa AGS

Kreationz Cheer And Dance
KSTAR STUDIOS
Kwabo Festival/events
L2R Dance
La Vérité Dance Projects
Lauren Wall School Of Dance
Le Beat Dance Academy
LEAGUE23 Performing Arts Collective
Linda Jean Dancing Academy
Lind-elle School Of Dance
Lion Heart Dance Company
Lisa Pellin Dancers
Little Ballet Stars
Love To Dance School Of Ballet
Love To Dance Studios
LSSDANCE
Lucy Guerin Inc
Main St Funk
Marist-sion Warragul
Marrina Mouses Dancing House
Megans Dance Studio
Melbourne Ballet School
Melbourne Chinese Performing Arts
Melbourne Dance Theatre
Melbourne Institute Of Dance
Melbourne Social Tango
Melbourne Studio Of Ballet / Dancebourne Arts
Melissa's Dance Elements
Mel-O-Drama's Performing Arts
Michelle L. Vennix School Of Dance And Yoga
Ministry Of Education Singapore
Monash University Performing Arts Centres
Mount Martha School Of Dance
Movement Zone Studio
Mt Dance Creative
Murry Youth Performing Arts
NICZ Dansation
North West Dance Company
Over The Moon Dance Studio
Pacific Elite Dance
Parkwood Dance Academy

Peninsula Ballet Ensemble Inc
Peninsula Ballet School
Peninsula School Of Dance
Phillip Island Dance Studio
Project Animo Incorporated
Pulsate Dance Force
Querencia Creative Play & Dance
R & D Dancers
Rain & Lucky Academy Of Dance
RazzamaJazz Dance Studio
Reflections Academy Of Dance
Richardson Dance Studio
Rise Dance Academy
Rocketstars Academy
RPA Studios Pty Ltd
RSD Studios
Sacred Heart College
Sally's School Of Performing Arts
Santa Maria College
Sarah Louise School Of Dance
Second Echo Ensemble
Sharon Saunders Dancers
Showbiz Performing Arts Studios
Signature All Starz
Simply Dance
Soraya Mckee Dance Society
Soul Circus
Southcoast Dance School
Spark Studio Of Dance
Stage Left Performing Arts School
Step In Time Studio Of Dance
Steps Performing Arts Kyneton
Steps Performing Arts Yarraville
Street Dance Studios
Strike A Pose Dance Studio
Studio Phoenix
Suzie Ryrrie School Of Dance
T.J.Dance Studio
Tarneit P-9 College
Templestowe Dance Academy
Tempo Dance

That Dance Place
The Academy Of Classical Ballet
The Australian International Dance Team
The Circus Spot
The Dance Centre
The Dance Company
The Dance Room
The Dance Studio
The Dancers Space
The Edge Performers School
The Jane Moore Academy Of Ballet
The Jazz Centre School Of Performing Arts
The National Theatre Ballet School
The Performers Project
The Space Dance & Arts Centre
The Tangueria-sidewalk Tango
Theatre De La Danse
Argentinian Tango Dance School"
Toepaz Dance Studio
Training Central
U Can Dance
Showbiz Performing Arts Studios
Upstaged Dance & Performance Studio
Urban Funk Dance
VCA Dance
Victorian Ballet School Darebin
Victorian Dance Academy
School Of Performing Arts
Victorian Irish Dance Academy
Virtual School Victoria
Volar Dance Centre
Wendorff Dancing Academy
West Pointe Ballet Academy
Yarra Heights Dance Academy
Z Fit Studios
Zabelley Dancer

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

Abigail Benham-Bannon
Alec Katsourakis
Alex Knights
Alexandra Andrews
Alisa Finney
Alison McIntosh-Deszcz
Alison Symons
Alyssa Mong
Amanda Matas
Amanda Stone
Amber Riches
Amy Citroen
Amy Forbes
Amy Jennings
Amy Pyke
Ana Mitsikas
Andrea Toronyi
Anna Bovdis
Anna Dixon
Anna Dunphy
Anna White
Anne Marie Ludwig-Cox
Anne O'Keeffe
Annette Evans
Antony Hamilton
Archana Kuncha Koorthy
Ashley Chiu
Beth Rusmanis
Beverly Ryan
Bree Munnery
Brianna Kellett
Bridget McWhinney
Candance Shaw
Cara Mitchell
Carissa Strangis
Carmen Pace
Carolina Pais
Cassandra Simmons
Cassie O'Sullivan
Cat Yee
Catharina Ballintyne
Chantelle Redzeposki
Charlotte Young
Chelsea Byrne
Cheryl Juelg
Chimene Steele-Prior
Chris Hewitt
Cora Hughes
Cynthia Wang

Dagogo Obogo
Dani-Ela Kayler
Daniel Riley
Daniella Olea
Danielle Courtier
Danielle Cresp
Danielle Taylor
Deanne Butterworth
Deborah-Lynne Brink
Debra Hanlan
Dianne De Battista
Elayne Cherry
Elena Flodstram
Elena Osalde
Elissa Gault
Elizabeth Cooper
Elizabeth Jarque
Ellen Davies
Ellen Rijs
Ellie Litras
Eloise Harris
Emilly Batten
Emily Wells
Emma Dodd
Emma Kiely
Emma Sbardella
Erin Taube
Fabiana Grimaldi
Filip Borsaru
Freya List
Gareth Belling
Gary Hickey
Gaynor Borlase
Georgia McIntosh
Georgina Bond
Geraldine Bate
Gillian Butcher
Gillian Jordan
Gracieuse Amah
Gretel Taylor
Gulsen Ozer
Hamish McIntosh
Harper Trounson
Harriet Norman
Hayley Chong
Hayley Does
Heidi Lupprian
Heidi Tyrrell
Helen Champion
Holly Stuart
Izabella Arkouzis

Jacqui Stratton-Smith
Jade Whitworth
Jaime Richmond
James Rust
Janelle Jennings
Janine Thomas
Janne Blanche
Jasmin Monks
Jasmine Moseley
Jemma Lowther
Jenny Jones
Jess Zintschenko
Jessica Brown-Kenyon
Jo Mitchell
Joanne Adderley
Jordyn Chapman
Josephine Palermo
Judi Appleby
Kacey Hockings
Kallista Imlach
Karen Edwards
Karen Walsh-Smith
Kate O'Keeffe
Kate Outridge
Kate Reilly
Katherine Kavadis
Kathleen Gonzalez
Kathleen Taura
Kathrin Colgan
Kathy Vlassopoulos
Katrina Cichowski
Kayla Murphy
Keera Franceschini
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Kimberly Francis
Kirsten Mazzeo
Lara Gandini
Latisha Sparks
Laura Brown
Laura Di Mauro
Laura Germano
Laura Parker
Laura Uhe
Lauren Dodge
Lauren Turnbull
Lauren Young
Leanne Nicol
Leisa Prowd
Linda Grigg
Linda Hamilton

Linda Mclellan
Lindy Crowe
Lisa Cullinane
Lisa Pellin
Lisa Woolley
Liz Rundle
Louisa Di Donato
Lynda Del Din
Lynette Harry
Maddy Ewert
Madelane Knowles
Margaret Brownlie
Maria Tsaldaris
Marty Hirst
Melanie Dobrovoljni
Michelle Jarrett
Michelle Vennix
Michelle Wall
Mikki Lipson
Molly Fynmore
Monique Sendeckyj
Nadja Anin
Narelle Tolliday
Nicola Iser
Nicole Bunnell
Nicole King
Nicole Perry
Nora Liu
Olivia Heyworth
Patrick O'Lunaigh
Paul Allen
Paul Carter
Paul Fennell
Paulette Shaw
Peter Hockey
Prue Slingsby
Rachel Fuga
Rachel Wilson
Rahul Mahato
Rain Francis
Rebecca Bickerton
Rebecca Hardy
Rebecca Hauser
Rebecca Schefferle
Renee Burke-Hughes
Renee Maloney
Renee Vournazos
Rhiannon Johnson
Rhonda Draper
Rhys Holden
Rita Eicens

Robbie Carmellotti
Romina Norello
Sam Thompson
Sam George Sathyanesan
Samantha Usher
Sarah Miller
Scarlett Nash
SeungHI Lee
Sharlene Cuellar
Shelley Wakefield
Shynea Clarke
Skye Pendleton
Sofia Reinking
Sophia Borobokas
Stacey Miriklis
Stephanie Georges
Stephanie Scott
Steven McTaggart
Susan Crowe
Susan Spruce
Susannah Broaden
Susannah Keebler
Suzanne Pettit
Suzanne Watts
Suzi Beasley
Symiko de van der Schueren
Tamara Finch
Tamsyn Hovey
Tanya Sayers
Tanya Titterrell
Tara Smith
Thomas Woodman
Tiahna Esteves
Tim Harbour
Trisnasari Fraser
Trudy Cameron
Trudy Harris
Tyler Watt
Verity Danbold
Vicki Kirwin
Victoria Chiu
Wendy Erickson
Xin Ong
Yvette Synot
Ziggy Clements
Zoe Arsana
Zoe Mitchell

RTO PARTNER MEMBERS

Academy of Dance Victoria
Ballarat Clarendon College
Berwick College
Bev Palmer Performing Arts
Carey Baptist College WA
Catholic Regional College Sydenham
Cragieburn Secondary College
Curtain Call Performing Arts Studio
DanceStruck
Fairhills High School
Gay Wightman School of Dance
Geelong High School
Hoppers Crossing Secondary College
Jane Moore Academy of Ballet
Kallista Dance Academy
Lowther Hall Anglican Grammar

Marymede Catholic College
Mill Park Secondary College
Nazareth College (Noble Park)
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Bentleigh
Patrick Studios
Ringwood Secondary College
Rowville Secondary College
Sandringham College
Sayers Dance Academy
St Catherine's Catholic College QLD
St Helena Secondary College
VCASS
Williamstown High School

DONORS (Gold \$999+)

Rhys Holden and Lucy Goleby

...AND OUR **447**
STUDENT MEMBERS

Image: Australian Dance Awards,
Australian Ballet
Photo: Samara Clifford

Government recognised peak body and subject association for dance in Victoria.

ausDANCE
VIC

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Yarraville VIC 3013
victoria@ausdance.org.au

ausdancevic.org.au



WE THANK OUR FUNDING PARTNERS



Education
and Training



Support rolled over to 2022

PROGRAM AND VENUE PARTNERS

University of Melbourne, Faculty of Fine Art and Music (VCA)
Patrick School of the Arts
Brunswick School of Dance
Yarraville Community Centre
The Space Dance and Arts Centre
Geelong High School
Ministry of Dance

Main Cover Image:
Wagana and DUST Youth Dancer AYDF 2019

Cover Images (L to R):
Ava Hewitt and Kallee Richardson, Jason Coleman's Ministry of Dance. Photo: Sean Higgins
Daniela Jong, Rowville Institute of the Arts.
Dancehouse Winter Workshops, Aniyah & Carlos Devine. Photo: Alec Pernes.
Student Alana Pullis at RPA Studios Kilmore. Photo: Tess Pittaway.