What we learned
Arts in schools program
Australia Council for the Arts
Hard words

This book has some hard words.

The first time we write a hard word

● the word is in blue

● we write what the hard word means.

You can get help with this book

You can get someone to help you

● read this book

● know what this book is about

● find more information.
About this book

This book is written by
Australia Council for the Arts.

This book tells you what we learned from a new program about the arts in schools.

The arts include

- music
- visual art and craft
- photos
- books and poems
- theatre
- dance
- festivals
- community arts.
About the program

Who is part of the program?

People who work at the Sydney Opera House run the program.

The program includes

- artists from the Opera House
- students
- teachers
- principals.
Why was the program made?

The program was made because research shows the arts can

● help students learn

● help teachers do a good job

● connect people

● help people feel happy.

The program was made to

● connect people in schools and the arts

● connect the Opera House with schools

● help schools be more creative.
What do people do in the program?

The program includes arts projects over 3 years. Many schools do the project.

After 3 years students are part of a show at the Opera House.

In each project

- students watch a show at the Opera House
- students and artists work on arts projects in schools together
- teachers and principals learn from artists
- teachers learn to use art to make better lessons.
What we learned

What good things happened?

Teachers

After the program teachers

- have new skills to help students learn
- feel connected to other school staff
- understand how arts can help students learn and feel happy.

Teachers and principals feel proud to see students learn in new ways after the program.
Students

After the program students
- are more excited about school
- have new ways to learn in the classroom
- feel better about themselves.

Parents

After the program parents give more time
- to help students with school work
- to work with the school.

Parents feel proud about the things their child did in the program.
Artists

After the program artists have

- new ideas to make art

- new places to make art including schools

- new ways to make money by working with schools

- a better connection to schools and the community.
Opera House and schools

After the program

- schools want to work more with the Opera House in the future

- students say they feel happy and excited at the Opera House

- students feel very connected to a famous building in Australia.
What is hard?

It is hard to

- find time to fit new arts activities into other school programs
- find the right people in schools to make new activities happen
- keep arts in schools when the program ends.

It might be hard for the program to grow because each school needs different things.
How to make the arts program better

There are lots of ways we can make the arts program in schools better.

The program works best when schools

- trust the leaders of the arts project

- make time for arts activities and other school programs

- try new things.

The Opera House should decide

- how different the program is allowed to be at each school

- what parts of the program stay the same so all schools follow a good program.
More information

For more information contact the Australia Council for the Arts.

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The NRS can help if you need support to speak or listen

NRS Help Desk 1800 555 667

NRS website communications.gov.au/accesshub/nrs
Scope’s Communication and Inclusion Resource Centre wrote the Easy English version in November, 2020.

To contact Scope call 1300 472 673 or visit www.scopeaust.org.au
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