

25 July 2023

WA-based research leads to State-wide success

An evidence-based strategic initiative that supports arts organisations to create practices that build the social and emotional wellbeing of young people is a State-wide success.

To date, just over \$1 million in Healthway funding has been awarded to nearly 30 organisations across Western Australia to embed concepts from the Telethon Kids Institute's research driven program, Social and Emotional Wellbeing through the Arts (SEW-Arts).

Phase one of the research, conducted on behalf of UWA's Centre for Child Health Research in 2021, originally worked with a handful of arts organisations, children, and parents to develop resources and a website to support the SEW-Arts program.

In phase two of the research these educational tools were successfully trialled by metropolitan and regional arts organisations across the State, resulting in the Healthway funding expanding to support more organisations.

This financial year Edith Cowan University received nearly \$260,000 for its Playful Health-Arts 2023-2025 program and the Esperance Tjaltjraak Native Title Aboriginal Corporation received nearly \$60,000 to co-design a set of localised, culturally appropriate resources to specifically target the needs of First Nations children living in the Esperance region.

UWA, led by the Telethon Kids Institute, will receive a further \$300,000 in Healthway funding to enable the next phase of the SEW-Arts program, which will support more arts educators to intentionally implement it into their annual program of activities.

Telethon Kids Institute Senior Research Fellow Dr Leanne Fried said it had been extremely rewarding to watch the program take flight and be embraced by so many WA organisations.

"This SEW-Arts program is an Australian first and has gone from strength to strength in a very short period of time," she said.

"The funding has supported and will continue to support a suite of activities that will improve the social and emotional wellbeing of children and young people across the State," she said.

Healthway CEO Ralph Addis said the SEW-Arts program has provided a fantastic platform to give arts educators the right tools to empower children and young people and give them a safe and inclusive space to express themselves and grow.

Public

“I’m proud that Healthway has played a significant role in exploring how arts educators can extend arts programs to foster positive social-emotional development, which in turn leads to good mental health,” he said.

For more information on successful projects visit www.healthway.wa.gov.au.

Media contact: Karmen Grzetic/Hermione Coleman media@healthway.wa.gov.au