

**MEDIA RELEASE  
OCTOBER 5, 2018**

## **A Brand New ART SQUAD Has Formed Across South Australia**

A cohort of nine young, regional South Australians have been selected to join the ART SQUAD, A creative youth program built to identify and nurture the next generation of creative leaders in regional South Australia.

Initiated through a partnership between Carclew and Country Arts SA, ART SQUAD comprises creative young people aged 18-23 years, living in regional, rural or remote South Australia, who want to build their own creative career pathways while also delivering arts programs within their own communities.

The selected nine represent the vast expanse of South Australia with two participants from Port Lincoln and one each from Wudinna, Ceduna, Whyalla, Renmark, Encounter Bay, Kingscote, and Mount Gambier. The artists' diverse backgrounds include digital media and filmmaking, muralists, physical theatre and dance.

Creative Producer Alysha Hermann will support the nine members over the next two years to generate and deliver creative projects in their community and support other members to do the same in their own regions. ART SQUAD will provide 'wrap-around' support, professional development, peer and experimental learning, mentoring and a team framework for the successful applicants to develop and deliver projects in their regions.

ART SQUAD member, Zawadi, from Mount Gambier is passionate about bridging the gap between her African community and the wider community of Mount Gambier and beyond.

*"I want to create a dance, music and video experience that will tell my story of a one-year old refugee in the Congo and travelling to Australia. Using my story to open up conversation about different communities within regional South Australia and connecting young people through the program",* said Zawadi.

Members will work with Creative Producer Alysha Hermann who is herself a daughter of the regions, currently living and working from Glossop in this statewide role. She is an experienced and award winning youth arts practitioner, artist and arts worker.

ART SQUAD members will collaborate through a virtual meeting platform, in addition to individual sessions and an annual face-to-face catch up with the whole group to connect and support each other over this time. Three members will also accompany Alysha to the biennial Artlands Conference in Victoria later this month.

*"I started my own journey into the arts as a 19-year-old through a regional youth arts project in 2004. I've been so lucky since then to have incredible mentors and opportunities to develop my own skills and a meaningful career as a regional artist and artsworker."* Said Alysha

*"Art Squad is about deliberately identifying and nurturing the next generation of regional creative leaders as they forge their own pathways. It's about providing them with all the connections and opportunities I had and hopefully a few that I didn't. I'm so excited to start working with this inspiring bunch of young*

# CARCLEW



creative leaders – who are already doing incredible things – to see what we can make happen next in regional South Australia.”

As part of the opportunities delivered to the Art Squad team, three members will also accompany Alysha to the biennial Artlands conference in Victoria this October as representatives of Art Squad and for their personalised professional development.

Further information is available on the [Carclew](#) and [Country Arts SA](#) websites.

**Media Enquiries: Leigh McGrane – [leigh@atgpublicity.com.au](mailto:leigh@atgpublicity.com.au) – 0438 699 795**



Country Arts SA | 2 McLaren Pde, Port Adelaide SA 5015  
08 8444 0400 | [email@countryarts.org.au](mailto:email@countryarts.org.au) | [countryarts.org.au](http://countryarts.org.au)

Carclew | 11 Jeffcott St, North Adelaide SA 5006  
08 8267 5111 | [carclew@carclew.org.au](mailto:carclew@carclew.org.au) | [carclew.com.au](http://carclew.com.au)