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Hitting the Right Note: Music Added to Sports Voucher Scheme

Carclew applauds the South Australian Government's budget announcement today of \$54.6 million to expand the SA Sports Voucher Program to include music and double the number of vouchers available per child, starting January 2025.

Carclew CEO Mimi Crowe said the support would unlock new creative opportunities for children across South Australia, making music education more accessible than ever before.

"This expansion is a game-changer for music education and opportunity in South Australia. By including music in the Voucher Program, the government is making a statement about the importance of creativity and arts in child development," she said.

"Following the recent Department for Education commitment of \$7.5 million towards expanding music in schools, this initiative will provide countless opportunities for young people to discover the joy of music and realise their potential as creative individuals."

Recently released research from Kindred Australia highlights the myriad benefits of arts and culture in enhancing childhood and youth wellbeing. Music education has been shown to boost cognitive development, emotional intelligence, and social skills, creating a solid foundation for lifelong success. The expanded voucher program will make these benefits accessible to more children, ensuring a brighter, more creative future for South Australia.

Adelaide Youth Orchestras Executive Director Nic Jeffries said the program would empower young musicians across the state, providing them with the resources they need to pursue their passion for music.

"Adelaide Youth Orchestra is thrilled to support this program, which will nurture the next generation of musical talent in South Australia," he said.

Adelaide City of Music Ltd General Manager Joe Hay said such initiatives encourage participation, remove barriers, and enable a lifelong love of music.

"The increase in funding will also provide a much-needed boost to the music community in a time of change and economic uncertainty," he said.

Ms Crowe said Carclew was committed to connecting all children and young people to the world of creative possibilities.

"This government initiative aligns with our mission, reinforcing our dedication to providing accessible and inclusive arts education. Our programs are designed to inspire and nurture creativity, confidence, and community health and wellbeing among South Australian young people," she said.

"Carclew looks forward to collaborating with the government, schools, and community organisations to maximise the impact of this initiative and ensure that every child in South Australia can thrive creatively.

“Alongside this, we welcome the announcement of \$47m in arts funding towards much needed infrastructure and new arts investment fund.

“We couldn’t be happier about this announcement as South Australia needs a thriving arts sector for children and young people to thrive and we are all stronger when our sector shines. We look forward to the upcoming release of the Cultural Policy and have big plans for strategic initiatives in the youth arts sector.”

For more information on Carclew and our programs, visit [Carclew’s Website](#).

About Carclew

Carclew is Australia’s largest multi artform cultural institution dedicated to children and young people, offering a diverse range of programs, workshops, and funding opportunities to support the artistic development of children and young people. As South Australia’s home of youth arts, we foster creativity, cultural understanding, and personal growth, seeking to have the greatest impact on the greatest number.

About Adelaide Youth Orchestras

Adelaide Youth Orchestras (AdYO) nurtures the musical talents of South Australia’s youth through high-quality orchestral training and performance opportunities. AdYO supports young musicians in their artistic development, fostering a love for music and excellence in performance.

References

- [Kindred Australia Research Insights Paper](#)
- [Adelaide Youth Orchestras Website](#)
- [UNESCO City of Music Office](#)

Image: Adina Lopez, Concert Master, Adelaide Youth Orchestra, Violin at Carclew, Photo by Charlotte Smith

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