

NEWS RELEASE: Thursday 15 August, 2024



## Carclew Welcomes Nick O'Connor as New Music Specialist

**Adelaide, Australia** – Carclew is thrilled to announce the appointment of Nick O'Connor as Music Specialist. With over 13 years of experience supporting young music enthusiasts at The Northern Sound System, Nick brings a wealth of knowledge and a deep commitment to fostering bright futures through music.

“Nick loves music and what it does for young people, their families, and our community,” said Carclew’s Head of Programming, Lisa Baker. “His dedication and passion are evident in his extensive work with youthful music enthusiasts, building projects and creating pathways for them.”

Nick’s career includes leading projects involving writing, recording, and performing music across Australia and internationally. His recent project, Heaps Good Friends, achieved over 3 million streams and performed in some of Australia’s most iconic venues. Despite his extensive performing experience, Nick remains most at home in his studio, where he loves “chasing melody dragons and adding distortion to vintage synths.”

Expressing his excitement about joining Carclew, Nick said, “I am stoked to be joining Carclew, a magical place full of creative history and rich community spirit. I can’t wait to share the infectious Carclew energy with emerging Adelaide go-getters in programs across the state.”

Nick’s accolades include the Geoff Crowhurst Ruby Award (2018), SA Music Awards Best Pop Artist (2018), and Best Music Educator (2020). His reputation as a skilled educator and successful musician positions him perfectly to lead Carclew’s music programs.

The newly established Music Specialist role at Carclew is dedicated to increasing engagement with children and young people, connecting communities and schools through music. Nick will curate, develop, and deliver an annual program of music events, workshops, and projects, fostering a vibrant, inclusive music culture for South Australia’s youth.

Nick's role will also include conducting research and evaluation to support evidence-based programming and shaping the future of the youth music sector. His leadership will amplify the impact of music and creativity on children and young people, aligning with Carclew's strategic vision.

Minister for Education, Training and Skills, Blair Boyer, commented, "The Malinauskas Government believes every child should have access to music and continues to demonstrate this through our Public Education Music Strategy, expansion of the Youth Sports Voucher program to include music lessons, and our support for Carclew's ambitious youth music programs."

Carclew will use a recent grant from the Department for Education to create this position and engages students with an interest in a music career to connect them with industry professionals and artists. This initiative includes in-school workshops and collaboration with government school communities and partners across the state to support the implementation of South Australia's Public Education and Music Education strategies.

Expected outcomes from this initiative include increased awareness and access to career opportunities in the music industry for students. Carclew will develop resources and programs for students and teachers aligned with the Australian Curriculum, SACE, and other pathways initiatives. Regular student workshops, access to industry professionals, and related learning opportunities will be provided.

Carclew's CEO, Mimi Crowe, commented, "We are delighted to have Nick on board. His extensive experience, innovative approach, and passion for music education will significantly enhance our community music programs. The establishment of the Community Music Hub will further our mission to provide impactful music education and career opportunities for young people."

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### **About Carclew:**

Carclew is South Australia's home of youth arts and creativity. It connects all children and young people to a world of creative possibilities, as artists, learners and audiences. As Australia's largest multi-artform cultural institution dedicated to children and young people, Carclew is a vital part of Australia's youth arts sector.

Photo credit: Charlotte Smith