

AbaF Award to arts project for Cooma young people

SEAR, an arts organisation based in Bega, and Southern General Practice Network, based in Cooma, have won an award for partnership from the Australia Business Arts Foundation (AbaF).

SEAR and Southern General Practice Network won the Arts and Health Foundation Award for partnerships between healthcare and arts organisations that improve health and wellbeing. The award was presented on the evening of Tuesday 7 September at the AbaF Awards in New South Wales, held at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney.

They won the award for a joint project that encourages teenagers in the Mums and Dads (MAD) group, Cooma, to participate in arts activities that promote messages of health and wellbeing for young people. Members of the MAD group participated in photographic workshops, producing a series of still images that portray their current situations. The photographs were exhibited at a public exhibition. This led to participants describing their work and story on national radio.

A short film was produced which explored the life experiences of the 25 participants, looking at the obstacles they have tackled and overcome – including domestic violence, drug addiction, post-natal depression and mental illness. The group felt strongly that their stories may provide some valuable answers and help other teenagers make better decisions.

The partnership between SEAR and Southern General Practice Network will go on to the national AbaF Awards, to be presented in Sydney on 21 October.

Media contact: Marie-Louise Carroll, director AbaF-NSW. (02) 9215 9317