

MEDIA RELEASE

Music for a Brighter Future: Arrow Energy partners with Musica Viva Australia Intensive music program for Wallumbilla and Dysart



Nicole Murphy working with children from Quilpie State College

For immediate release

From **12 – 21 February 2019**, two regional Queensland schools will immerse themselves in music thanks to **Arrow Energy**. **Wallumbilla State School** in the Maranoa Region and **Dysart State School** in the Isaac Region will each spend four days with composer and educator **Nicole Murphy** in an intensive **Musica Viva In Schools** residency – a rare opportunity for students and teachers to work closely with a professional musician.

Both visits are made possible by **Arrow Energy's Brighter Futures** program, which supports local organisations that are dedicated to developing stronger Queensland communities.

Musica Viva's residencies are designed to empower participation and build sustainable music education in schools that otherwise have little access to live music. The program blends classroom music-making opportunities for students and extracurricular workshops or rehearsals with one-on-one teacher mentoring, culminating in a community showcase event. The children are in expert hands with **Queensland educator Nicole Murphy**, who works regularly with schools in Brisbane and has recently finished similar residencies with Quilpie State College and Cairns School of Distance Education.

"We greatly value this chance to facilitate capability building for our teachers, foster authentic learning experiences for our students as well as sharing this great work with our parents at the showcase event at the conclusion of the residency," says **Michelle Botma**, Curriculum Co-ordinator at **Dysart State School**. "We are thankful that Musica Viva In Schools will be visiting our school this year, as made possible through Arrow Energy's Brighter Futures program."

Melissa Graham, Principal of **Wallumbilla State School**, adds: "At Wallumbilla, a rural P-10 school community of 106 students, we welcome any opportunity to engage with music. Parents and teachers alike value music education, not just for the joy it brings our children, but also for the impact research shows it has across all areas of learning. We are so fortunate to have access to an expert in Nicole Murphy through this programme."

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“Each year Musica Viva In Schools reaches around 24,000 Queensland children. Many of them are in remote and/or disadvantaged regions,” explains Lachlan Snow, Queensland State Manager of Musica Viva. “When dealing with a State of this size, we need and are very grateful to partners like Arrow Energy who are giving the children and their communities in the Bowen and Surat Basins a brighter and music-filled future.”

Musica Viva In Schools is the largest external provider of music education programs in Australian classrooms, including in regional and remote areas. The program has enriched the learning and lives of over seven million children across Australia in its 38-year history. For more information about Musica Viva In Schools, visit www.musicaviva.com.au/education.

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