

## **CIRCUS? YOU CAN! 2021**

**Circus training for all children and teenagers living with disability**

**Seeking applications of interest for participation in this unique program**

**Dates TBC for July School Holiday & Term 3 Programs**

**FREE for young people who qualify**



CircusWA has been working with DADAA since 2016 delivering circus programs for young people living with disabilities. While we would love to include all students with diverse needs in our regular programs, the rigours and demands of circus and safety does not allow for such a breadth of abilities. So, with the help of DADAA we have been generating a unique and supportive circus practice that caters for the needs and abilities of a variety of young people who love to engage physically with the world around them.

A variety of circus skills are taught and explored during these workshops and are chosen based on the makeup of the groups' physical and intellectual abilities. The following skills may be offered and explored throughout a program: tightwire, stilt walking, trampoline, juggling and aerials.

In addition to the physical skills, we use clowning and performance to bring out the participant's sense of wonder and creativity. When the physical and the performance skills are joined, then stories felt by these participants can be connected with and given voice to. Through this practice we have found that circus provides people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities, a safe space engendering an experience of authenticity and creativity.

All of the skills we offer in a workshop are chosen to facilitate and support each individual's physical and emotional needs and consider touch, hold, wrapping, balance and height. Underpinning the training is to support participants to take regular small risks in a safe environment. Through play, we can help young people take on challenges and face perceived risks, and through this process we find young people become self-motivated, stronger and more engaged.

### ***HOW DO YOU GET INVOLVED?***

To attend this programme, we ask all potential participants to contact the office for a brief discussion, and then fill in a short enquiry form online. Please note that it is a requirement of participation in this program that any young person who usually requires a support worker/parent

to help them engage with activities, should be accompanied by this support person. We will invite them/you to join in the fun with your child to ensure everyone gets the most out of this program. Here's a short overview of our celebrated production "*Experience Collider*" which set out to show that Circus can be a profound tool both as a training practice and an artform accessible for people living with disabilities.

### **Experience Collider (2018 – 2019)**

*Co-Produced with DADAA; funded by Telethon Kids; supported by Awesome Arts*



Across 18-months CircusWA and DADAA worked with youth with high support needs in a circus practice. Using circus, dance and music our performers found ways to build physical strength, communication, confidence and resilience, while developing friendships and networks with CircusWA's youth troupes.

Through this project we showed that circus really can be done by ALL.

See how Experience Collider was created [HERE](#)



*"Within Experience Collider I see 'Voice' being given to those who might otherwise not have a voice, through sound, sign, gestures movement and perhaps very importantly touch. Building a social world perhaps like no other."*

Nada Murphy, researcher at Telethon Kids Institute