



# Letter of Support

To the IVAIS Panel,

It is with pleasure that I write as the Managing Director of 2 Rivers Pty Ltd in support of Joanne Barrs funding application with Create NSW.

2 Rivers Pty Ltd are a 100% Aboriginal owned Supply Nations Certified boutique community development company based in Regional NSW. Our aim is to support the growth of creative and cultural capacity in regional and remote NSW encouraging economic and social independence through activities and outcomes that evoke thought into sustainability, connection to country and self- determination, encourage economic and social independence to communities, groups, organisations and individuals.

We work primarily in the arts sector working with Aboriginal communities engaging participants across the region by delivery of professional development programs, creative workshops and mentoring by engaging professional Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal artists and artworkers to develop and promote access for Aboriginal regional and remote artists, art workers and community to increase their skills, promote high quality artistic outcomes and improve networks within the sector resulting in exhibitions and performances across the region engaging the diversity of artists and creative inspiration within the wider community.

Additionally we support Regional and Remote Artists and Cultural Practitioners from all backgrounds to build their capacity, in the last few months we have been working with Jo Barr in developing a new project that we believe shows definite merit. Throughout this process we have mapped her project, developed a project plan and funding application that we encourage you to support.

2 Rivers can confirm that we will provide support and assistance to the value of \$10,000 that will include professional development and mentoring in project planning, community engagement, Aboriginal engagement and protocols and will also include cross promotion and assistance with marketing, partnership development, venue and hot desk and admin support.

We encourage you to support this application to support a fantastic regional artist that is offering her talents to our smaller communities who often move it, it is vital for creative growth in our regions.

Sincerely,

Lorrayne Fishenden  
Managing Director

“Balnagask”  
Tareelaroi Weir Rd  
Pallamallawa NSW 2399

17 February 2024

To Whom It May Concern

I write in support of JAMB Hats and Millinery, Jo Barr and her application to delivery creative felt and product making workshops around regional northwest NSW.

I have participated in and hosted workshops by Jo Barr over the past 5 years and cannot speak highly enough of each engagement. I have witnessed her ability to engage creative beginners, extend creative experts, fostering inclusivity, transfer skills, empower women and support those in struggling rural communities.

Many of the rural communities Jo has identified to deliver her workshops have: -

- recently experienced significant natural disasters and will continue to.
- extremely limited access to specialist creative artisans and workshops at an affordable price.
- limited access to public transport to attend workshops in other centres.

The workshops are portable, travelable and can be hosted in any community facility. Participants leave with a high-quality product to be proud of, a session with like-minded people, share stories and experiences that support positive mental health, learn about life in rural communities and the benefit of business opportunities.

I strongly support this grant application and the focus on extending creative competence of rural communities by attending one of Jo Barr’s creative felt and product making workshops.

Sincerely  
Belinda Pring

B Pring

Email - Belindapring2709@gmail.com  
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Testimonials received via email from previous workshop participants.

.....was a fun day on Saturday .. thanks.

Who would believe as a raw beginner I could walk out of your felt hat making workshop with a wearable (albeit still damp) hat which fitted perfectly and looked great. .... as was the case with every other workshop participant. One participant wore his hat from the moment it was finished and walked out at the end of the day with it still being worn.

Not an experience that is always guaranteed in one day workshops.

This workshop combines technique, design, process, problem-solving and finishing details plus marvellous drops of information throughout the course related to everything and anything textile .

Jo-Anne's experience as skilled felter, teacher, milliner and her ability to multi task and gravitate around the class to solve individual problems techniques is very effective. Plus she brings her own extensive range of hats in all styles shapes and colours which are excellent examples to jump off from as new hat makers. No one misses out. I highly recommend this workshop to anyone interested in all things textile using wools silks alpaca even if you think hats are not necessarily your thing as you will be surprised.

Thanks Jo-Anne for providing a fun productive entertaining day.

*Sandy – Glen Innes*

"I loved this workshop with Jo. Jo explained and showed the techniques so well and provided extra hands-on help when I needed it. It was an amazing feeling to have made 3 hats, as well as be able to take these new skills to try at home."

I look forward to being able to attend another workshop with Jo."

*Heidi - Brisbane.*

I love your workshops. I find that they're extremely well taught and every hat is gorgeous. You make the effort to ensure that you have one on one time with every student and answer all questions. Your generosity of knowledge and skills is evident. I thoroughly enjoy coming, obviously as I keep stalking you and am a repeat offender in your workshops. You give people enough knowledge, confidence and encouragement to try this at home.

*Georgia- Blue Mountains.*

She is truly a master milliner and master felter. Jo guided us through the process with humour and skill and facilitated a creative space that allowed us to not only make beautiful hats, but to connect and share stories along the way.

*Susan – Bellingen.*