



**Arts and
Disability
Network
Australia**

Being. Belonging. Becoming

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Arts and Disability Network Australia, Project Partnership Guidelines.

Arts and Disability Network Australia (ADNA) approaches partnerships with a strong commitment to equity, co-creation, and sector-wide impact. These partnership criteria are designed to ensure that any collaboration involving ADNA is meaningful, appropriately resourced, and aligned with its strategic priorities.

At the core of this framework is the principle that ADNA is not simply a supporting or endorsing body, but an active and equal partner in shaping projects from the outset. Partnerships are expected to reflect shared authorship, transparent decision-making, and a genuine commitment to disability arts and leadership.

This document outlines the key conditions under which ADNA will engage as a primary project partner, as well as the criteria for projects seeking ADNA's support in a more limited capacity — for example as a promotional partner or a delivery partner on part of a project. These guidelines aim to foster collaborations that strengthen the disability arts sector, centre the leadership and voices of d/Deaf and disabled artists, and contribute to sustainable, systemic change.

ADNA primary project partnership criteria.

1. Shared authorship and decision-making

- ADNA is involved from the outset — not invited in once the project is formed
- ADNA contributes to shaping the concept, methodology, and outcomes
- ADNA holds a formal role in governance or steering (e.g. advisory group, co-lead, or partner body)
- Key decisions are made through ongoing dialogue, not consultation after the fact
- ADNA is named as a co-creator, not a delivery partner or endorser

2. Alignment with ADNA's strategic priorities

- Build national connectivity between artists, organisations, states and territories

- Strengthen cultural infrastructure and resources
- Contributes to advancing advocacy, d/Deaf and disabled leadership, arts and disability sector development or systemic change
- Increasing the visibility and participation of d/Deaf and disabled artists within Australia's cultural landscape.

3. Resourcing and equity

- ADNA's involvement must be properly resourced — not absorbed
- ADNA's time, labour, and expertise are budgeted and compensated
- Resources are allocated for access, participation, and engagement
- The project reflects fair and ethical working conditions

4. Commitment to dialogue, iteration, and shared learning with ADNA

- The project includes ongoing feedback and engagement with ADNA and, where relevant, its networks.
- There is space for reflection, adaptation and critical discussion throughout the life of the project.
- Knowledge, learning and outcomes are shared transparently between partners.
- ADNA is involved in key decision-making processes and project review points.

ADNA Project Support and Partial Project Delivery Support.

ADNA may also support projects in a more limited capacity where there is strong alignment with our values and strategic priorities, but where ADNA is not a full project partner.

Support may include promotional partnerships, advisory input, participation in a specific activity, or delivery of a defined component of a larger project.

The criteria for partial project delivery support include:

1. Alignment with ADNA's values and mission

- The project demonstrates a genuine commitment to disability arts, access and inclusion.
- d/Deaf and disabled artists, arts workers or communities are meaningfully involved in the project.
- The project aligns with ADNA's values, advocacy positions and broader vision for the sector.

2. Tangible benefit to artists or the sector

- The project creates clear value for d/Deaf and disabled artists, arts workers or communities.
- Benefits may include professional development, visibility, employment opportunities, audience engagement, sector capacity building or improved access.

3. Clearly defined role and scope

- ADNA's involvement is limited to a clearly defined activity, outcome or area of expertise.
- Any reference to ADNA as a delivery partner must clearly identify the specific component of the project that ADNA is contributing to.
- ADNA will not be listed as a lead or full project partner where its involvement is limited to a discrete activity or area of delivery.

4. Appropriate resourcing

- Any work undertaken by ADNA must be appropriately budgeted and remunerated.
- Project budgets should include fees for ADNA's time, expertise, delivery, consultation and administration where relevant.
- ADNA is unable to provide unpaid project delivery, advisory services or ongoing project management support.

5. Ongoing consultation and endorsement

- While the level of involvement may be lighter than a full partnership, ADNA must have sufficient opportunity to provide input on areas connected to its role.
- Project partners must maintain open communication with ADNA throughout the project lifecycle.
- ADNA will only publicly support or associate its name with projects that align with its values, messaging and strategic objectives.
- ADNA reserves the right to withdraw support where significant changes occur that no longer align with these principles.

