



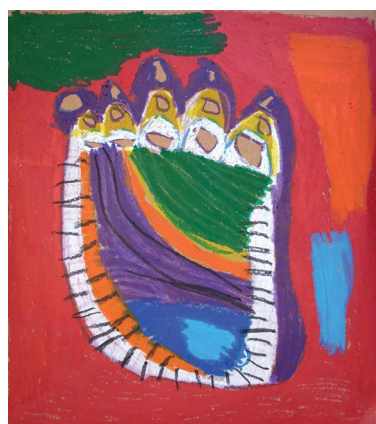


# DIRTYFEET

DirtyFeet acknowledges the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation, the traditional owners of the land and waters upon which we dance.

“The sole of the foot connects us to the earth and a foot print tells people that we are here. The colours I used in the artwork represent different emotions.”

Artist Digby Webster



The cover image is a vividly coloured artwork in thickly-applied oil pastels, showing a footprint shape that takes up most of the frame, against a red background. Seen from above, the broad shape of the foot has five stumpy white toes. Above or behind these is an extended set of five yellow toes, and behind this, an extended set of five longer toes in purple. Each set of toes has beige nails. The surface of the foot is filled in with diagonal areas of deep green, orange, purple and blue - outlined in broad bands of orange and white, with black strokes radiating outwards towards the edge of the foot. A patch of green spreads from the upper left corner towards the uppermost toes.

# EVERY BODY DANCING:

DirtyFeet's Access and Inclusion Plan for people with disability

## 2020-2021





# INTRODUCTION

Access to dance for all has been DirtyFeet's commitment since the company began offering free dance classes to the local community in Redfern over 10 years ago. Since that time, this commitment has matured into a significant annual program called The Right Foot which offers a series of dance works over a number of weeks for participants with and without disability, culminating in a showing for family, friends and industry. Since 2012 The Right Foot Program has provided inclusive dance opportunities for over 500 participants, with 8 in ten now repeat participants and now very much part of the DirtyFeet community. Some of these participants have gone on to mentor and support others new to DirtyFeet. For others, it has opened doors to other dance and performing arts opportunities.

Our commitment to inclusive dance opportunities extends well-beyond this strong and successful program. DirtyFeet ensures its venues and performances are accessible to all audiences. This includes wheelchair accessible venues and facilities, 'relaxed' performances and companion cards. We also provide professional training on an as-needs basis, tailored to the needs of participants with disability, as well as workshops in partnership with disability providers. DirtyFeet has also partnered with other performing arts companies to offer inclusive workshops and programs. We welcome these opportunities, and thank our partners who have provided access to their venues.

It is now time to promote and consolidate our efforts to inclusive dance by developing a plan that will showcase our annual program for artists of all abilities, and signal our goals for the future and expanded opportunities. Every Body Dancing has been written with our broader vision, mission, strategic goals and values in mind. Our current Strategic Plan 2019 – 2021 provides the context for this plan and each of our actions are aligned with the Strategic Plan's key outcomes and objectives.



# CONSULTATION

“The Right Foot is so important because it provides a genuine opportunity for young people of all abilities to explore and develop their dance practices. The workshops give you the space and support to build your skills, and this in turn opens you up to further opportunities!”  
Riana Head-Toussaint



The voices of The Right Foot and DirtyFeet participants more broadly has shaped this plan. A small group of participants were involved in a dedicated session to discuss what they would like to see in this plan and have also provided input on its draft. We would like to thank the small group of participants who provided their time and input, they agreed to be our advisory council through the plan's development. Jamyna Baker, Christopher Bunton, Holly Craig, Riana Head-Toussaint Brianna Lowe, Matthew Massaria and Natalie Pelarek.

DirtyFeet also promoted the plan's development via social media and email and sought feedback from our wider dance community, as well as targeting some of our members with disability. This plan represents all this feedback as well as an environmental scan of broader trends in integrated dance.

# GUIDING PRINCIPLES ■

In developing this plan DirtyFeet decided on some principles that would guide its development. These principles were also tested with our advisory council before we committed to them. They are:

- Focus on ability
- Foster inclusive cast, programs and audiences
- Provide fully accessible venues

All our objectives and supporting actions in this plan have been developed with these principles in mind.



# Our Strategic Plan 2019 – 2021

provides the framework for

## Every Body Dancing

**OUR VISION ■** to be a major catalyst in transforming the dance landscape in NSW.

**OUR MISSION ■** to support and promote independent contemporary dance by providing inclusive opportunities for emerging and mid-career dance artists to cultivate their creative potential and develop their practice.

**OUR VALUES ■** access, opportunity and community

## ACCESS ■

Ensure strong engagement with people with a disability, indigenous, CALD and regional dance partners, as well as access to contemporary dance for all in the community.

## OPPORTUNITY ■

Providing opportunities to young people with and without a disability to establish and develop their career as dance artists.

## COMMUNITY ■

Continually strengthening the dance community in NSW by supporting dance artists through our programs, mentorship and professional opportunities.





# OUR MESSAGE

THE NSW DANCE COMMUNITY AND OUR PARTNERS ARE  
AWARE OF AND SUPPORT OUR WORK

Objective	Actions	KPI
Connect with our community and supporters	Provide easy read documents for The Right Foot, The Choreographic Lab and Out of the Studio and other written content as required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Material developed and available on DirtyFeet's website</li></ul>
	Ensure DirtyFeet's newsletter and other electronic content is accessible to vision-impaired readers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Material developed for all regular communication</li><li>Material sent to readers as required</li></ul>
	Review and plan key actions for each year of Every Body Dancing with the Access and Inclusion consultation group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Plan reviewed against actions and KPIs at the end of each calendar year</li><li>New actions for each year are included in an annual version of Every Body Dancing</li></ul>

“At DirtyFeet, I could just let go and move my body. People with disability need to be heard and it's a place where I felt heard. We'd move our bodies and express ourselves- no thinking, no stressing, we'd just move our feet and our bodies to the rhythm. 'I love The Right Foot program because it is fun moving and dancing with my tribe.”  
Digby Webster

OUR PROGRAMS

OUR PROGRAMS

CONTINUE TO EVOLVE AND SUPPORT OUR DANCE ARTISTS

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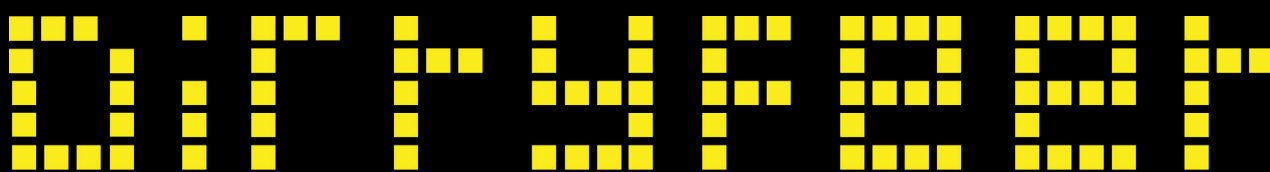
Objective	Actions	KPI
Develop disability led dance practice	Create a workshop co-facilitator role for an artist with disability for The Right Foot program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Role created and filled</li><li>Increase in number of applications from The Right Foot participants for the Choreographic Lab</li><li>Increase in number of the Choreographic Lab applications by The Right Foot participants</li><li>Increase in number of The Right Foot participants attending the Out Of The Studio performance</li></ul>
	<p>Increase The Right Foot participants for Choreographic Lab program</p> <p>Offer support for The Right Foot participants to complete Choreographic Lab application</p> <p>Explore options for the Right Foot program offered in partnership with regional partners</p>	
Develop professional dance opportunities for artists with a disability	<p>Offer professional training on a needs basis</p> <p>Provide pathways from the Right Foot program into The Choreographic Lab</p> <p>Provide an opportunity for a choreographer with disability to participate in The Choreographic Lab program.</p> <p>Provide an integrated performance opportunity, in partnership with a performing arts company</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Training opportunities provided</li><li>Right Foot dancers participate in the Choreographic Lab</li><li>Choreographer with disability leads a Choreographic Lab</li><li>One integrated performance a year in partnership with another performing arts company</li></ul>

Objective	Actions	KPI
Ensure inclusive opportunities	<p>Provide pre-program briefing material to cast and participants, in easy read where applicable</p> <p>Facilitate contact with cast and choreographer prior to the program starting</p> <p>Complete a needs audit for each participant with disability</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Needs audit developed and completed for participants as required</li><li>Positive participant feedback</li></ul>
Secure partnerships for The Right Foot program	Secure partners with fully accessible venues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>2 partnerships secured</li></ul>



I owe a lot to DirtyFeet and The Right Foot...The Right Foot was a life changing experience for me, my reaction was wow I am still able to dance, then maybe I can do anything!

Holly Craig



### **DirtyFeet Staff:**

Anthea Doropoulos - Director and Co-Founder

Megan Exton - Funding and Development Manager

Melinda Tyquin - The Choreographic Lab and The Right Foot Program Manager

Elle Evangelista - Marketing Manager

### **DirtyFeet Board of Directors:**

Kerrie Burgess - Chairperson

Michael Doropoulos - Director of Finance

Margaret Khursigara - Secretary

Andrew Bass - Director of Legal

Lyna Cannell - Director of Marketing

Anke Timm - Director of Engagement

Imogen Yang - Director of Arts and Disability

Gideon Hornung - Director

Manbir Singh - Director

### **Photography:**

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[www.dirtyfeet.com.au](http://www.dirtyfeet.com.au)

