

MERRIGONG  
THEATRE  
COMPANY

ILLAWARRA  
PERFORMING  
ARTS CENTRE

WOLLONGONG  
TOWN HALL

## **First Nations Programming and Engagement Consultant**

Merrigong Theatre Company is seeking expressions of interest from skilled and experienced First Nations arts and/or cultural consultants, to advise on the Company's operations as a whole in relation to First Nations communities and artists, with a particular focus on programming and community consultation.

### **Scope:**

We hope to be guided by the Consultant we engage in creating the final scope for this role, but imagine that it might include such things as:

- Undertaking a 'health check' analysis of the Company's procedures, protocols, and engagement as they relate to First Nations communities, audiences and artists.
- Advising on the creation of further pathways of engagement for First Nations people with Merrigong, both within the Company and externally, including through access and opportunity on our stages, the use of our venues, employment and training opportunities and the like.
- Advising and acting as a sounding board for Merrigong's Program team in quarterly program planning meetings, and advising on the establishment of a more permanent First Nations programming voice in the Company (whether internal through a permanent staff role, or external through an advisory group etc.)
- Assisting the board and staff of the Company, through specific engagement and meetings, to understand how arts organisations in Australia continue to perpetuate the culture of colonisation, and assisting Merrigong to explore how it might decolonise its structures and ways of working.
- Establishing Cultural Safety and Responsibility Guidelines for the Company's engagement with local First Nations communities, organisations and artists, as well as visiting artists and companies.
- Leading management through a process of reviewing and finalising the Company's Reconciliation Action Plan (or replacing it with something else).

### **Timeframe:**

The role would initially be offered on a six-month consultancy contract basis starting in April 2019. We currently envisage this amounting to an average of one full day a fortnight, but imagine that it could be spread over various events and projects throughout the term as required. (For example, the programming consultancy might take place once a quarter, taking up a half day at that time, whereas something like the RAP review or Cultural Safety and Responsibility Guidelines might require a couple of days in a row etc.).

Following the initial six-month contract, there is the possibility that this role may continue in order to support the initiatives it has begun/furthered, or that it might be replaced by a permanent staff role, or may continue alongside a permanent staff role.

### **For Further Information:**

Simon Hinton  
Artistic Director / CEO  
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**Please contact Simon for a preliminary discussion, before submitting a written proposal by March 18.**