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FROM EAR TO EAR

FRIENDS, art lovers, locals - lend Tony Curran your ears. The artist-in-residence at Queen Street Studios in Chippendale needs 300 subjects to sit for an ear portrait. Sitting takes less than 10 minutes and you can keep your portrait after it has been exhibited.

“Ears are as unique as fingerprints,” Curran said. “The shape of the ear, its undulations, size and contours determine the way we hear the sound around us. So what happens if we all have different shaped ears? Are we hearing the same world?”

Curran admitted that after sketching and colouring 80 ears on acetate, they were becoming “alien” to him.

“There are strange mutations from person to person. Some people with big personalities have tiny ears.”

Curran had grommets in his ears as a child and studied psychology and sound engineering as well as visual art at COFA.

He plans to move onto large sculptural ears with an auditory component after his current work. To sit for an ear portrait, email tony@tonycurran.com.au.

“ If we all have different shaped ears, are we hearing the same world?”



AVERSION THERAPY NOT SUPPORTED: COUNCIL

Kim Shaw

EVANGELICAL Ministries who promote homosexual vilification or gay “aversion therapy” will not receive support from Sydney Council through grants funding or otherwise.

It came to the council's attention that a group linked with “aversion therapy” for same-sex attracted young people may have held meetings at the Surry Hills Neighbourhood Centre.

Councillors were horrified that grant funding could indirectly go to such groups.

Councillor Shayne Mallard told the council that the “aversion therapy” of some of these groups was offered under coercive circumstances and could leave young people scarred for life.

“Essentially, this is their main focus.

“ We have to make it clear that we do not approve

This evangelical group works specifically in this area,” Cr Mallard said.

“We have to make it clear that we do not approve.”

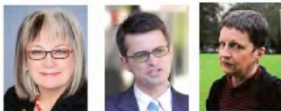
Cr Phillip Black said grant recipients at Surry Hills Neighbourhood Centre not associated with the group should not be penalised by any withdrawal of funding.

Cr Di Tornai said there was a need for the council to investigate the matter.

Cr Irene Doutney said the Evangelical Ministries website had links to sites describing gay people as “broken and damaged”, a view which she did not support.

Cr Meredith Burgmann said it was the responsibility of the council to investigate the matter, not the neighbourhood centre.

Lord Mayor Clover Moore said that if it



Meredith Burgmann Shayne Mallard Irene Doutney

was found that a group was conducting such activities that the council would “in no way” support it.

Cr Phillip Black was keen to ensure that other groups using the Neighbourhood Centre, such as art groups, would not lose funding.

The council resolved to “seek to clarify and confirm that the Surry Hills Neighbourhood Centre is not being used by the Evangelism Ministries to promote homosexual vilification. CEO Monica Barone will ask staff to investigate.

For a full gallery of photos from local events, go to www.centralmag.com.au.



Calling for volunteers: Darcy Byrne (left) and Sam Alderton-Johnson of Glebe Youth Centre. Photo: DANNY AARONS

FUNDS FOR YOUTH

GLEBE Youth Centre is entering a new era with a new co-ordinator, new vocational training program, new funding from Sydney Council and a community clean-up day planned.

Co-ordinator Darcy Byrne, also a Labor councillor on Leichhardt Council, said the centre's funding mostly came from DoCS, yet Sydney Council sponsored a program called After Dark as well as a full-time case worker.

After Dark runs on Friday and Saturday nights providing programs for dozens of local kids at a crucial time of evening.

Aboriginal Medical Service

runs health and sex education talks and there are other structured programs offering arts and cultural activities at other times.

The centre runs a young mothers playgroup in the mornings and offers a healthy meal to kids who drop in in the evenings.

“Offering a meal is very important in Glebe. For a significant number of kids, it is the only healthy meal they can rely on,” Mr Byrne said.

Mr Byrne said said thousands of kids in Glebe could benefit if funds were found to provide additional staff at the centre.