

## Opening Doors

*an interactive performance and forum for young people exploring  
domestic and family violence*

### About the Program

*Opening Doors* is an interactive performance and discussion forum for youth aged 15-18 which aims to educate and empower young people with increased knowledge and understanding of the causes and impacts of domestic and family violence and the avenues of support available to them if they are experiencing these issues. The program tours to schools in NSW and is presented free of charge to students in Years 9-12.

The program has been developed by Tantrum Youth Arts in partnership with the Cooperative Legal Service Delivery network in the Hunter region. Since an initial pilot performance in 2013, the program has been presented over 30 times to more than 2000 school students in the Hunter and Central Coast regions.

In 2018, Tantrum is thrilled to have the support of the Greater Charitable Foundation, which will enable us to tour the program to 20 schools across NSW. Tantrum is seeking expressions of interest from high schools in the following regions:

- Central West
- Mid-North Coast
- Hunter
- Central Coast
- New England

### The Performance

*Opening Doors* is a 50-minute performance presented by young, professional actors. It tells the story of a young person who is experiencing domestic violence at home and is involved in other unhealthy relationships as well. The performance is interactive and directly engages students in a conversation about the situations portrayed in the play and provides them with the opportunity to actively problem-solve and explore avenues of support with the performers as the play progresses.

### The Discussion Forum

The live performance is followed by a 30-minute discussion forum with the cast, and a range of legal and support service providers including: solicitors, police officers, counsellors, youth workers, and representatives from other services in the local community.

The forum allows audience members to ask questions, to debrief and to make sense of the situations they have just seen enacted in performance. It also provides young people with an introduction to their local network of support service providers, which is really important in helping them to connect the dots between situations portrayed in the play and situations they may be experiencing in their own lives, and understanding how to go about seeking help.

## How does it work?

The performance tours with all necessary equipment including sound and amplification system, set, props and audio-visual equipment. The host school only needs to provide a large clear space for the performance to be staged, such as a school hall, multi-purpose centre or gym.

This program is aimed at students in Years 9-12 and we can accommodate up to 300 students per performance. Schools may like to select a single year group to attend the program, or might select multiple year groups to attend (depending on size). The performance is not suitable for students in Years 7-8.

Schools who are shortlisted following the EOI process will be contacted in early 2018 to confirm numbers and ages of students attending.



## How to Apply

Interested schools in the targeted regions above can apply to host a presentation of *Opening Doors* in Term 2 or Term 3 2018. The application form is available at [www.tantrum.org.au](http://www.tantrum.org.au)

**Applications are due by 5.00pm 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2017** (last day of Term 4).

Schools are selected by an assessment panel comprising the Program Coordinator, Tantrum Youth Arts staff, Greater Bank staff volunteers and representatives from the Cooperative Legal Service Delivery program.

As there are limited places available, schools will be selected based on their articulation of the need for this program in their school and priority will be given to those who can demonstrate the greatest need.