



**Friday, 18 May 2018**

To the funding body assessor:

For the past few years, I have had the privilege of attending, and taking groups of students, to Newcastle's Real Film Festival. Attending this local festival has had a huge impact on our young filmmakers in so many ways.

Working at a local private school, and teaching Screen and Media to students from Years 5-12, we often find opportunities to network and learn from creatives in the industry hard to come by. Most of the opportunities exist in the bigger cities and are inaccessible for younger students. Having a festival like this, local to Newcastle, has changed the game in having opportunity to immerse and inspire students by the industry. The speakers this festival has been able to deliver over the years have been top quality and relevant to our students.

Newcastle is a thriving city full of creatives. My students will often be filming at the beach, sunrises / sunsets, city events, and liaising with older creatives to help them practice their skill. There is a culture here, removed from the hustle and bustle of Sydney that longs to be creative and have a voice. You hear talk of it amongst the students and see it in work via social media. Newcastle is a town with so much beauty, and a swarm of creatives who want to capture that in different ways.

The Real Film Festival turns that desire to create cinematic magic into something with meaning. Through its competitions, it gives student and adult creatives a chance to use their creativity to tell a purposeful story. Through its workshops, it teaches new skills, and inspires meaning beyond pretty pictures.

Attending the Real Film Festival workshops inspires our students to view their passion for film as a realistic career option. It allows them to see that the films they are making in High School will help them gain skills to go into multiple disciplines in the creative industries.

Overall, our students have greatly benefited from this event and are excited for what the 2018 program will bring. I would be happy to discuss this recommendation should that be required.

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*VET Screen and Media Teacher*

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