

MEDIA RELEASE

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Parkes art on show at hospital

Parkes Hospital will host an exhibition of vibrant new artworks created by 12 local artists alongside works from Parkes Shire Council's art collection. The two exhibitions opened at Parkes Hospital on Monday 22 August.

'Through the Looking Glass' is an exhibition by 12 Parkes artists of new artworks created during a series of weekly workshops. The workshops, led by Maralyn Nash, took inspiration from the natural environment. The new artworks feature botanical and landscape images and have been made with the needs of hospital patients, visitors and staff in mind.

The works in watercolour, acrylic, collage, pastel and charcoal "reflect imagery that is uplifting, nurturing, light and colourful to create an oasis of calm for people during their hospital experience," workshop leader Maralyn Nash said.

"We hope patients connect with the outside world by viewing artworks inspired by nature and our local environment; and for them to feel less like they are in a 'twilight zone' while in hospital," Ms Nash said.

The workshops, held in May and June, and this follow-up exhibition were initiated by Arts OutWest in partnership with the Lachlan Health Service and Parkes Shire Council.

One artwork from each workshop participant was chosen for the special exhibition and will now be gifted to the Parkes hospital to be a part of a permanent collection with the option to display.

Lachlan Health Service Manager, Liz Mitchell believes the artworks will help to brighten the spirits of both patients and staff.

"Our culture and arts program is helping to bring our new open and contemporary Parkes hospital to life and I'm looking forward to seeing the "Through the Looking Glass" exhibition up on our hospital walls," said Ms Mitchell.

Alongside these new artworks will be 17 works of art on loan from the Parkes Shire Council collection. Curated by Jocyn Moles, these works have also been selected to stimulate a calming, relaxed response from those in the hospital.

The two exhibitions will run at the hospital for the next six months and can be seen by staff, patients and their visitors.

The creation of artworks for the Parkes Hospital has been an activity of the Lachlan Health Service Culture and Arts Working Group. The Lachlan Health Services Project team engaged regional arts development organisation Arts OutWest to integrate culture and arts into the Forbes and Parkes Hospital redevelopments. The NSW Government provided \$113.7 million to redevelop the Forbes Hospital and build a new Parkes Hospital. A component of this funding was used to help deliver the Lachlan Health Service Culture and Arts program.

For more information about the Lachlan Health Service Culture and Arts program, please contact Arts OutWest's Arts and Health Coordinator Christine McMillan: christine.mcmillan@health.nsw.gov.au or 6330 5228.

Photo caption: Participants in the 'Through the Looking Glass' workshop with their artwork which is on display at Parkes Hospital. Back L-R Joan Ash, Jo Laurie, Csaba Belley, Lea Orr, Wendy Hawthorn, Kelly McGirr, Elsie Mahon, Robyn Morrissey. Front L-R: Maralyn Nash, Lyndall Bowen, Joy Freebairn, Lyn McLeod. Photo by Jay Lee Zagrovic.