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Colouring in book of local art distributed in local hospitals

A colouring in book has been produced for patients, visitors and staff at Parkes and Forbes Hospitals featuring work by artists from the NSW Central West.

Called 'Colour' the free colouring-in book has been designed to provide a calming, mindful activity for those who spend time in hospital.

"A group of artists imagined a colouring in book that they would like to colour: one that provides diverse opportunities; a variety of styles and is representative of local artist's work; a book that extends the idea of colouring in," Arts OutWest arts and health coordinator Christine McMillan said.

"This colouring in book presents a range of options, from very detailed works with hard edged outlines, to sketches which offer open ended possibilities for colouring. Sometimes the colouring need not involve being inside the lines," Ms McMillan said.

Ten artists from across the Arts OutWest region were asked to contribute two art works each. The designs reflect each of the artist's unique styles, including four works from Aboriginal artists.

Artists with work featured in 'Colour' are Melissa Barber (Canowindra), Robert Clegg (Parkes), Robyn Morrissey (Parkes), Eryn Mullins (Condobolin), Shani Nottingham (Cowra), Jane Tonks (Orange), Karen Tooth (Condobolin), Scott 'Sauce' Towney (Peak Hill), Heather Pike (Orange) and Bob Sutor (Lithgow).

The limited print run of 'Colour' will be available free of charge, with small packets of coloured pencils at the Parkes and Forbes Hospitals for staff, visitors and patients.

Purchases of 'Colour' will be available from Arts OutWest by phoning (02) 6338 4657 or artsoutwest@csu.edu.au. The income from sales will support ongoing Arts and Health programs.

The 'Colour' project is an Arts OutWest and Lachlan Health Service Culture and Arts initiative as part of the Lachlan Health Service Culture and Arts Program.

The Lachlan Health Service 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.

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