Media Release

Arts OutWest

15/3/2018

Bathurst Hospital Transformed

Artworks by local Aboriginal women will soon decorate doors at the entrance to Bathurst Hospital.

This is part of a Western NSW Local Health District wide project to incorporate local Aboriginal artwork as decals and signage in hospitals. It aims to make the hospital spaces more inviting, less daunting for Aboriginal people and in turn recognise local Aboriginal heritage.

At Bathurst Hospital coloured panels that run along each glass door will feature a row of designs created by members of the Kelso Women’s Group in The Waiting Room Project.

Throughout 2017 the women participated in art making workshops with Arts OutWest’s Aleshia Lonsdale and Christine McMillan.

The women learnt techniques for lino-print making and created a series of colourful artworks. A number of these images have been framed for exhibition and digitally transformed into the images for the hospital doors. The project was run in a partnership between Arts OutWest, Relationships Australia, Bathurst Hospital and Western NSW Local Health District.

‘I think that the decals look great  - they are co-ordinated well with the building, but also are distinctly Indigenous & stylish.’ Nurse Unit Manager Susan Sturgeon commented

This Aboriginal signage project grew out of the award-winning *Mali Marambir Ngurang: to make better place Lachlan coordinated* by Arts OutWest as part of the culture and arts program at the new Forbes and Parkes hospitals.

An Aboriginal Signage Strategy (2016-2019) has now been adopted by Western NSW Local Health District. As well as artworks incorporated into entrance designs, signage in hospitals will be updated to include both local Aboriginal and English language words.

Doorway designs have already been installed at Blayney Hospital with other hospitals in the Western NSW Local Health District to follow soon.

Arts OutWest is the regional arts Organisation for the Central West of New South Wales and has been active in Arts and Health for the last 9 years.

Media enquiries:

Christine McMillan: 0447 832 043

[christine.mcmillan@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:christine.mcmillan@health.nsw.gov.au) (Arts OutWest Arts and Health Coordinator)