

**STRATEGY  
FOR ARTS INTEGRATION  
INTO STAGE 3  
WAGGA WAGGA BASE HOSPITAL  
REDEVELOPMENT**

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March 2018

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

The integration of site-specific art into health facilities is increasingly prevalent world-wide and there is growing body of peer-reviewed research showing many benefits to patients, staff and visitors resulting from integrating arts and creative activities into healthcare.

Research has shown many benefits to patients, staff and visitors resulting from the presence of the arts in a healthcare setting. These include softening impersonal clinical buildings and therefore reducing the anxiety of patients using them; helping users to express, contain and transform distress and disturbance, creating a less stressful environment for all building users; increasing the understanding between clinicians and the people for whom they care and developing and delivering more patient focussed services and improving the experience for all.

Public artworks within health facilities have the ability to make places more accessible and create community identity and ownership.

The arts can be used to create culturally sensitive environments and genuine approaches to health care for Aboriginal and Torres Straits Islander people and other population groups.

The arts can provide increased opportunity for healthcare staff and service users to learn creative skills which improve the quality of healthcare experience and develop professional practice.

Access to creatively enhanced external healthcare spaces and gardens reduces anxiety and increases service user and family satisfaction with overall quality of care.

## PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

This report serves to provide strategic direction into the integration of art, design and arts and health projects into the design and planning of the Wagga Wagga Wagga Base Hospital (WWBH), Stage 3 Development. This development forms the final suite of services for the hospital campus and provides the elements necessary to meet the guiding principles of the Murrumbidgee Local Health District (MLHD) delivery of sub-acute, ambulatory and community based care.

*exposure to the arts has a profoundly beneficial impact, improving patient health & well being*

The strategies outlined in the document cover two categories:

- Art and design elements integrated into the built environment
- Infrastructure considerations for future Health & Arts projects

This report does not provide strategies for the development of specific Health & Arts projects which are outside the brief. The development of an Health & Arts project strategy by MLHD to coincide with this report is recommended to ensure that funding, development and commissioning processes can proceed in a timely fashion. The integration of public art works and art and creativity programs should continue beyond the commissioning of the building.

This report is the beginning of a long conversation about arts integration.

## **METHODOLOGY**

This strategy was developed through

- Review of relevant background material, drawings and information provided by Saville;
  - Consultation with MLHD Executive Staff, Clinicians and members of the Hospital Art Strategy Committee and artists [appendix 1];
  - Review of NSW Health & the Arts Framework [appendix 2] and the MLHD Strategic Plan
  - Desktop research into benefits of art in healthcare facilities and examples of integrated arts.
- 

## **2. PRINCIPLES FOR INTEGRATION OF ARTS**

The strategies proposed in this document are underpinned by the following principles.

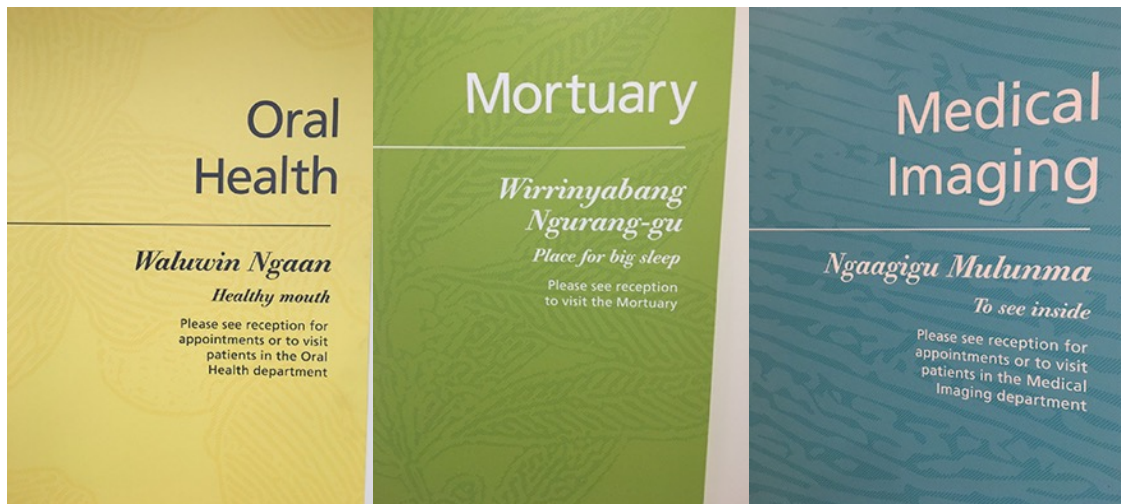
### **THE NSW HEALTH AND THE ARTS FRAMEWORK**

Strategies for the development and design of Stage 3 will provide opportunities to the MLHD to achieve the fundamental goals of the NSW Healths and the Arts Framework.

The framework places the primary role of any integration of the arts on improving health outcomes. Design and planning should take into consideration the way in which the design can:

- Improve the patient, staff and carer experience in health services through engagement with the arts in the broadest sense;
- Create a sense of place in health services, enhancing design and 'wayfinding';

- Leverage the arts as a mechanism for engaging communities with health services;
- Promote health messages through the arts;
- Increase access to the arts through health services and
- Foster sustainable partnerships between the health and arts sectors.



Awarding-winning dual language signage from a project of the Lachlan Health Service Culture and Arts Program, coordinated by Arts OutWest at Parkes and Forbes hospitals. Photo: Arts Out West

## MLHD STRATEGIC PLAN

Strategies for the development of design of Stage 3 will assist MLHD in achieving their vision and focus on the values of respect, empowerment and collaboration. There is an opportunity through this project for bold, innovative projects and partnerships that demonstrate commitment to excellence and wellness.

STRATEGIES
Projects should aspire to the highest level of creativity, artistic excellence and innovation
Professional expertise is required for the management, commissioning and installation of artworks within the development.
Working in partnership with the region's artists and the Arts sector
Collaborative partnerships between government and non-government stakeholders are required to achieve high quality outcomes.
Projects should be based on best practice and current research in Arts and Health.
Provision of space for a curator to work including storage of artworks, framing of artworks and storage of tools.
Establishment of partnership with University researcher to evaluate health outcomes and documentation of processes and outcomes.

### 3. THEMES

#### WETLANDS/RIVERS

A connection to nature appears throughout research as one of the easiest ways to reduce the clinical feel of the built environment and provide a sense of wellbeing. Out of consultation a strong desire for Stage 3 to connect with the region's wetlands and rivers as a starting point for the design has surfaced.

Wetlands are a critical part of our natural environment. They reduce the impacts of floods, absorb pollutants and improve water quality. They provide habitat for animals and plants and many contain a wide diversity of life, supporting plants and animals that are found nowhere else.

Wetlands provide an important range of environmental, social and economic services. Many wetlands are areas of great natural beauty and many are important to Aboriginal people.

The Murrumbidgee (Murrumbidya) River is an important water source for many wetlands, including the internationally significant Fivebough and Tuckerbill swamps near Leeton, and 16 wetlands listed as nationally significant in the directory of important wetlands.in

#### STRATEGIES

The use of the wetlands and the rivers to provide inspiration for colour palettes, design motifs, wayfinding and images.



Image of Fivebough wetlands by Bidgee used under Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Australia license

## 4. CONSIDERATIONS

### THE PATIENT EXPERIENCE

Entwined in the experience of being admitted to hospital or a clinic is the redefining of a “person” to being a “patient”. While medical staff have acute focus on the type of clinical care that is needed in order to heal, save lives, cure illness; there is another aspect of the “person” that is before them. The built environment and the arts activities stimulated by it are able to play a support role to the clinical care that is being received, Through human connection, the allowing of a “voice” for the individual as well as processes for psychological understanding of illness and recovery. Whether its from a simple program of beautification through murals and artworks on walls, or to a more in depth and long term process of engagement directly with artists, the activation of arts and health projects can mean real and tangible outcomes for patients and hospital staff. - Vic McEwan

STRATEGIES
Design should include opportunities for people to control their environment, and interact with the space.
Every opportunity to reduce or disguise the clinical nature of the built environment should be taken
Friendliness in visual and language of signage
Establishment of spaces for artists-in- residence, workshop, studio.
Spaces that embed creative activity within them

*humane civilised engaging*  
*non-clinical sensory*  
*welcoming wellness vitality*

Key Words raised in consultation when referring to the redevelopment

### FIRST NATIONS PEOPLES

The MLHD is committed to improved Aboriginal Health Outcomes. The design for Stage 3 should include strategies that acknowledges Wiradjuri country, Elders and community and extends a welcome to all Aboriginal People. The importance of this welcome being visible externally from the building cannot be understated.



STRATEGIES
Ongoing consultation with Aboriginal communities in the region with respect to protocols in use of language and design and this people who can tell those stories
Work with Eastern Riverina Arts to identify local Aboriginal artists to license designs for integration into floors, fabrics, glass.
Consider dual language signage
Consider an artistic 'welcome' and acknowledgement of country at the entrance.
Consider imagery that celebrates holistic approach to wellness and acknowledges the complementary nature of bush medicine
External garden Aboriginal health to consider bush tucker gardens and links to Murrumbidya Wetlands healing space through use of carved wood sculpture.

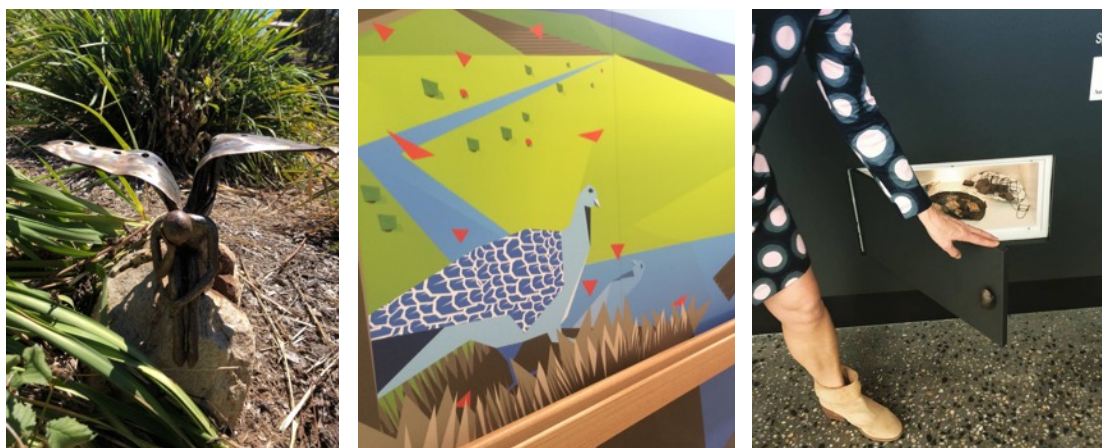


Wiradjuri welcome to country by Uncle Stan Grant as part of the Wagga Wagga Weaving Welcome. Aunty Sandy Warren (b1942, Wiradjuri), Aunty Joyce Hampton (b1933, Ngiyampaa), Aunty Lorraine Tye (b1950, Wiradjuri). Installed: 2013. Materials: Stained sandblasted glass. Wagga Airport

## YOUNG PEOPLE

Young people will be visiting the space both for their own care but also in the presence of other family members. Where possible the design should consider making child-friendly spaces, provide space for indoor and outdoor activity and be at their level.

STRATEGIES
Consider linking imagery of children space with the graphic identity of the Paediatric Ward of the Hospital, particularly spaces where children may be attending Stage 3 post Hospital stay.
Consider contouring landscape to allow children space to explore and use energy
Consider the placing of small artworks or display cabinets at lower levels both internally and externally to be 'discovered'



L-R ' 1. Fairy by Zane Separovich 2001 Steel, stainless steel, rock. Wagga Wagga Civic Precinct;  
 2. Graphic vinyl mural by Rachel Viski in Paediatrics Ward Wagga Wagga Hospital; 3. MAMA Gallery in Albury has 4 cabinets located around the museum for children to discover. (MAMA Facebook page)

## SOUND

The World Health Organisation (WHO) recommends that average noise levels should be lower than 35 decibels in hospital treatment rooms and 30 in wards. Despite the perceived expectation for hospitals to be places of quiet rehabilitation and recovery, the documented negative effects of noise shown in 14 international research papers, include increases in medication, increased stress levels, extended length of stay, issues relating to the cardio vascular system and a decrease in undisturbed sleep.

Our hospitals are filled with complex forms of sound, listening and perception, all of which have different purposes and affects on the human immersed in this soundscape. Central to this is the transmission of medical information via the electronic and mechanical noise of machines essential to the care of patients. This is one of the primary consideration in examining the sound space of the hospital; how to acknowledge the importance of, and continue to be able to decipher, the sound of machinery that is transmitting information to medical staff about the condition of patients. This sonification of medical data is essential in the care of patients and cannot simply be removed.

English sound lecturer Barry Truax describes how “sound as a physical, acoustic phenomenon always affects the entire body, not just the auditory apparatus”. By understanding sound in our hospital spaces in terms of design of space, design of machines, appropriate selections of fixtures, fittings and equipment and by generating a culture that understands sound levels as a central part of the healing process, we are able to make substantial contributions towards the care of patients through an understanding of the effects of sound.

STRATEGIES
The development of quiet spaces for both patients, clients and staff across all levels.
Development of seating that might ‘enclose’ the sitter with speakers and comforting sounds
Access to in-house system of ambient music available via a/v setup

## HERITAGE

Heritage advisor has requested possible inclusions of:

- Information panels/ posters to be installed in the main entrance reception area and/or clinic waiting rooms. These panels will include information about the site, the development of the hospital and significant people and organisations that have been involved with the hospital.
- Information plaques in the landscape areas at the north western corner of the site and to the east of the new building. These could incorporate the two plaques from the Old Hospital Building.

It is my understanding that a number of items (Appendix 3) in the current building have been identified for its heritage value and cannot be destroyed.

There is always a careful need to balance contemporary design with heritage panels.

STRATEGIES
Provision of display cabinets to display items of heritage value
Overall design of any interpretive panels to be done in consultation with any placement of artwork through the building.
Heritage interpretative panels may involve local artist/designers in its implementation
A place for the panels should be identified and managed as to ensure that the overall design of the interior spaces is not compromised
Placement of interpretative panels could be done in consultation with clinicians to create purposeful walks throughout the spaces.
Incorporation of heritage stairwells as sculptural work if agreed to by Heritage advisors

STRATEGIES
Consider incorporation of the original steel letters from the main hospital building, ' Wagga Wagga Base Hospital' into forecourt or floor.

### **USE OF REGIONAL ARTISTS AND DESIGNERS**

The Stage 3 development will provide opportunity to engage our region's artist and communities. Wherever possible professional artists/designers located in the region should be engaged and commissioned to provide work. Where the expertise is not available preferred suppliers should work with local artist's imagery and designs through a licensing mechanism.

It is though engagement with artists embedded in the region who are best able to develop artworks which resonate with the local community reflecting the diversity of culture, landscape, identity and heritage.

STRATEGIES
Work with Eastern Riverina Arts and other regional arts development organisations in the MLHD to identify potential artists and designers for collaboration
Provision of spaces for artist to inhabit the built environment to run workshops, perform, collaborate with staff, undertake residencies. Artists space may require internet access, wet area, storage.

### **CREATIVE AGEING**

STRATEGIES
Consider provision of space for creative activities in the foyer.
Consider provision of an 'artist in residence workshop space' an arts clinic'

The ongoing participation in creative activity is showing positive effects on people as they age. While there are specific spaces for aged care, the design should consider how arts and creative activity could be integrated into the foyer, but also be offered alongside other clinical treatments.

## 5. SPACE SPECIFIC STRATEGIES

### ENTRANCE FOYER

STRATEGIES
Welcome to and acknowledgement of Country
Consider provision of space for creative activities in the foyer.
Use of the void as potential space for public artwork developed as lighting fixtures
Provision of furniture that promotes activity rather than passive waiting

### HOSPITAL STREET

STRATEGIES
Floor treatment referencing the Murrumbidgee.
Temporary exhibition space - hanging system with lights
Establishment of tiered seating amphitheatre/performance space
Private spaces in public spaces
Provision of nooks and crannies for quiet spaces



River Stones by Aunty Kath Withers. Local Wiradjuri Artists work could be licensed and adapted into designs for floor motifs or fabrics.



## AGED CARE INPATIENT UNIT

STRATEGIES
Spacing of artworks to create guided walks through the unit
Importance of sensory and tactile objects and work
Imagery in space may reflect memory prompts and promote conversation
Outdoor space to places to sit that are sensory and create a feeling of security
Hanging space for works that explore portraiture or use of imagery of real people in the space, celebrating the stories of our elder community



A selection of images from BOLD: selfies by Oldies, a creative ageing initiative of Eastern Riverina Arts. Photographer Shona Pratt

## REHABILITATION INPATIENT UNIT

STRATEGIES
Consider how audiovisual artworks may allow users to adapt the space/view
Spacing of artworks to create guided walks through the unit
Establishment of tiered seating amphitheatre/performance space
Private spaces in public spaces
Provision of nooks and crannies for quiet spaces

## OLDER PERSONS MENTAL HEALTH INPATIENT UNIT

STRATEGIES
Use of textile and low sensory work to promote sense of calm and security

## PASTORAL AND SPIRITUAL CARE

STRATEGIES
Consider how lighting design and sound may be able to create a quite, contemplative space that feels 'sacred' without explicitly referencing any faith.
Consider integrating a labyrinth or walking path into the outdoor area



Brian Eno, *Quiet Room for Montefiore* 2013 – A composition used as a soundtrack in a separate space available as an "escape" and "somewhere to think, take stock or simply relax" for patients, staff and visitors to the hospital.

## OFFICE WORKSPACE AND STAFF AMENITIES

STRATEGIES
Amenities rooms to feature artworks or integrate opportunity for low key creative activity

## LIFTS

STRATEGIES
Design out stuffiness, darkness and closeness of lifts using visual imagery on walls or roof
Reduce visual clutter of advertising and ad hoc signage
Outdoor furniture could be specified to be developed to be delivered by local artists with community support

## WALKWAYS

STRATEGIES
Walkways offer opportunity for hanging system to create exhibition space
Overcame difficulty of sourcing quantity of artwork in hallways by using designed graphic vinyl patterns on walls reflecting theme to create visual interest.
Consider ways in which promoting wellness can be integrated visually and/or textually on walkways and stairwells



Kunming 24 ° N 102 ° E by Emily Willis. Pattern reflecting Wagga Wagga's Sister city. Produced in Graphic vinyl.

## GREEN SPACES

STRATEGIES
Design spaces in external spaces for potential public artworks
Ensure landscaping budget includes provision for sculptural forms
Outdoor furniture could be specified to be developed to be delivered by local artists with community support



## **6. SPECIFIC INFRASTRUCTURE**

### **DISPLAY CABINETS**

#### STRATEGIES

Display cabinets located across the entire floors in waiting spaces that can be curated as exhibition spaces for heritage items, contemporary artwork, memory boxes,

### **HANGING SYSTEM**

#### STRATEGIES

Installation and specification of hanging system in all walkways as well as identification of temporary exhibition space in foyer/hospital street

### **GRAPHIC VINYL**

#### STRATEGIES

Graphic vinyl to be used throughout space both as whole wall coverings or as patterns

### **GLASS**

#### STRATEGIES

Glass should be patterned with motifs or imagery to create privacy and visual interest wherever possible. Local designers should be invited to submit ideas

### **FABRIC**

#### STRATEGIES

Local designers should be invited to submit designs for upholstery throughout space for furniture

### **AUDIOVISUAL**

#### STRATEGIES

Any audiovisual system for wards should have two channels reserved one for provision of visuals and one for provision of audio

Use of interactive video walls allowing users to change imagery, interact with imagery

### **PARTICIPATION AND INTERACTION**

#### STRATEGIES

Waiting spaces designed to have opportunity to participate in arts activity or interact with artwork either physically or mentally

## VOIDS

### STRATEGIES

Voids and high ceilings provide opportunity for hanging artworks and designed lighting.

If no hanging artwork specified. Secure rated rigging points should be installed and documented.



A massive weaving installation in the Wagga Marketplace demonstrates both the use of a void and the need to carefully consider the integration of artworks during the design phase.

# APPENDIX 1

## CONSULTATIONS

Jill Ludford	Chief Executive MLHD
Helen Cooper	Director of Wagga Wagga Base Hospital
Jill Reyment	A/Director Clinical Governance Director Organisational Effectiveness
Prof. Paul Finucane	Senior Staff Specialist Geriatrician
Kylie Stein	Acting Manager – Wagga Wagga Aged Care Services
Aunty Kath Withers	Wiradjuri Elder
Vic McEwan	Artistic Director CAD Factory and

## **APPENDIX 2**

### **NSW HEALTH AND THE ARTS FRAMEWORK**

## **APPENDIX 3**

### **HERITAGE REPORT**