

## Local artworks to adorn the walls at new Tweed Valley Hospital

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The Secondary Artwork program for the Tweed Valley Hospital is set to inspire and enchant staff, patients and visitors to the new hospital when it opens early next year.

Seventeen artists were selected to create artworks for the new hospital through an Expressions of Interest process that attracted more than 50 applicants.

General Manager for The Tweed Hospital and Chair of the Arts working group, Joe McDonald said a total of 71 artworks have been created that will be displayed across 17 clinical wards throughout the new facility, as part of NSW Health's investment in arts and culture for the region.

"This is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our regions diverse and creative community, with the walls of our new state-of-the-art hospital to be adorned with the works of local artists, giving it a unique and distinct identity," Mr McDonald said.

"Artwork in clinical settings, such as a hospital, has proven benefits for patients, staff and community. This includes a reduction in medication dependence and length of stay, patient tolerance to symptoms and treatments and a generally enhanced patient experience through alleviating stress, fear and anxiety."

The artworks will be located throughout the hospital and include framed works, as well as applied wall graphics that create an inviting and inclusive space.

Artists have explored themes inspired by the Tweed region including local landscapes and stories which have cultural significance and recognise the Traditional Owners of the land on which the Hospital is being built.

"The Arts program aims to create a positive, long-lasting legacy for the community, which celebrates the people and places of the Tweed," Creative Producer for Health Infrastructure, Kattie Bugeja said.

"The selection of artists was carefully considered, with each living in or having a significant connection to the region, to ensure the hospital is connected to the local area it serves."

"My hope is that patients, staff and families feel 'at home' in the new Hospital, surrounded by artists and artworks that reflect their community."

The Secondary Arts Program supports the 'GARDEN | Health Together' sculpture in the main entry foyer, as well as a significant Aboriginal artwork "The Path We Take" by renowned Indigenous artist Frances Belle Parker at the main entry to the hospital campus, as well as a park that recognises the connection of the South Sea Islander community to the hospital site.

More information about all of the artists in the Tweed Valley Hospital Arts Program is available on the project website, [www.tweedvalleyhospital.health.nsw.gov.au](http://www.tweedvalleyhospital.health.nsw.gov.au).

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