



MEDIA RELEASE

Monday December 7

Arts Worker to join staff at new Bathurst Health Service

The new Bathurst Health Service will have not only a state-of-the-art new hospital but for the first time there will be a professional arts worker on staff to develop and deliver an Arts and Health Program as part of the region's health services.

Applications are now being sought from qualified arts-workers to be employed as the Coordinator of the pilot Bathurst Arts and Health Program. They will be responsible for developing a program of visual artworks, community and performing arts for patients, their families and health staff.

This 12-month pilot Bathurst Art and Health Program has to date received funding from the Australia Council for the Arts and the Commonwealth Government's Regional Arts Fund. The Greater Western Area Health Service has made a commitment to support the Program.

Bathurst Health Council Chair Jenny Brackenridge said that "In planning the future of the health service we identified the real value and need of the arts in the healing and recovery of those in our care."

"The Bathurst region has a growing reputation for a strong arts and culturally engaged community. This project will link and integrate the arts and health community together in ways previously not attempted in the central west region." Said Hannah Semler, Executive Officer of Arts OutWest.

The Arts and Health Project Coordinator will work with Bathurst Health Service administration, nursing and clinical staff to run regular artistic workshops including the making of integrated public artworks, performances, installations or exhibition works at the hospital.

The Coordinator will be mentored by Marily Cintra, Director of the Health and Arts Research Centre based in the ACT. Marily has over 20 years experience developing, guiding and evaluating similar programs in NSW hospitals.

The program will link the Bathurst Health Service to local organisations such as Mitchell Conservatorium, Migrant Services and Bathurst Theatre Company.

A small collection of artworks have already been purchased for the new hospital with dozens of local artists anticipated to be involved in creating works suitable for the new building in the future.

The Bathurst Health Service includes the new hospital, community and allied health services.

The Bathurst Arts and Health Program will be jointly managed by Arts OutWest and the Greater Western Area Health Service.

Applications for the 21 hour a week position are now being sought. The full job description can be found at www.artsoutwest.org.au or by calling 02 6338 4657. Applications close Monday January 21.

Released by Maryanne Jaques, Arts OutWest 02 6338 4657 / artsoutwest@csu.edu.au

Media interviews available with Hannah Semler from Thursday Jan 10 or with key staff at Greater Western Area Health Service by request.