

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**14 April 2008**

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### **Bathurst Art and Health partnership program begins**

After months of anticipation, agreements have been signed between Arts OutWest and the Bathurst Area Health Service for the much anticipated Bathurst Art and Health Program based at the new Bathurst Hospital to begin in earnest.

Christine McMillan has been appointed as the program coordinator and will be working three days a week beginning 15<sup>th</sup> April 2008 based at the new Health Serve. Christine is a practising professional visual artist, teacher and community artist with a range of experiences in delivering projects and programs within all sectors of the community across the region and beyond.

The first stage of the program will be to develop a 12 month plan for this innovative art and health program based at the new Bathurst Hospital. Work will include hanging the first round of prints and original art-works by local artists which were selected by the Steering Committee in late 2007 from over 80 submissions. New public artwork will also be selected for the entry foyer space of in the new Health Service facility and the Quiet Room, two areas identified as priority public art spaces. Following this will be the development of a program of diverse creative expressions involving staff, patients, families and community members as participants and as audiences. It is imagined that this will include music, theatre and circus, visual arts and crafts, film and video, writing and literature, and all kinds of multi-media.

Consultation with key stakeholders is an integral aspect of the program which is intended to be fully owned by the Bathurst Regional community.

The program will also be mentored and evaluated by the director of The Health and Arts Research Centre, Marily Cintra who has extensive experience in developing and delivering such programs in many health facilities within NSW. Marily was also the 2007 winner of the Ros Bower Award for community cultural development from the Australia Council. Her work can be seen on their website at <http://www.placemaking.com.au/Placemaking/Harc.html>

The Bathurst Art and Health Program is made possible through the active partnership of Greater Western Area Health Service who have allocated \$160,000 toward the program including the commissioning of the major artworks, The Bathurst Health Council, Arts OutWest and representatives from school education, Charles Sturt University, Bathurst Regional Art Gallery and the local Aboriginal and the culturally diverse community. Funding to Arts OutWest

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*For further information and photo opportunities contact: Maryanne Jaques, Communications Officer,  
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from the Australia Council for the Arts of \$35,000 and to the Bathurst Health Council from the Australian Government's Regional Arts Fund of \$18,800 has been essential for the employment of the specialist coordinator and mentor and to support some of the community program.

Further ongoing financial support will be required to enable the program to be fully realised and become sustainable in the long term.

Anyone interested in making a contribution or getting involved is welcome to contact Christine McMillan via Arts OutWest 6338 4657 or [artsoutwest@csu.edu.au](mailto:artsoutwest@csu.edu.au).

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For further information and photo opportunities contact: Maryanne Jaques, Communications Officer, Arts OutWest 6338 4657