

DATE Wednesday, 3 September 2008

### Bathurst Art and Health Program Launch

The Greater Western Area Health Service will officially launch the new Bathurst Art and Health Program on Tuesday 9 September 2008.

Health staff, artists and community members will attend the launch for the unveiling of an array of artworks and activities by The Hon Bob Debus MP, Federal Member for Macquarie and Minister for Home Affairs.

The pilot Art and Health Program of the Bathurst Health Service is a combination of artworks, performances, workshops and activities across various multi-art forms, all with a focus on health outcomes. The Art and Health Program Coordinator, Christine McMillan, began work at the Health Service in April 2008.

The program is a partnership between the Greater Western Area Health Service and the Bathurst Health Council with Arts OutWest supported by the Australian Government through the Australia Council for The Arts and the Regional Arts Fund. Partners in the program also include Bathurst Regional Council, Charles Sturt University and the NSW Department of Education, and other groups in the Bathurst community.

As part of the program various artworks from local, professional and emerging artists and local school students have already been selected for the walls of the new hospital space.

"These artworks will be unveiled at the launch and displayed permanently throughout the Health Service. Studies have shown that aesthetics in hospitals can reduce pain and speed recovery, encouraging happier, healthier patients" said program coordinator Christine McMillan.

"Following this will be the preview of the creative expressions planned as part of the project involving staff, patients, families and community members, including a performance by Mitchell Conservatorium students." Ms McMillan said.

The official launch of the Bathurst Art and Health Program will be held in the new foyer of the Bathurst Health Service, 199 Howick St Bathurst, Tuesday September 9 at 2pm. For more information contact Arts OutWest on 6338 4657.

Witness this state of the art healing environment built for today's needs and designed for tomorrow's changes, at the new Bathurst Health Service.