

Fact Sheet

Shoalhaven Hospital Redevelopment

April 2025



Arts in Health

Arts and culture strategy for the \$438 million Shoalhaven Hospital Redevelopment.

The redevelopment arts program is designed to create welcoming and supportive spaces that promote wellbeing for staff, patients and their families. The arts program will feature 7 art installations throughout the new, purpose-built 7-storey Acute Services Building and refurbished spaces of the hospital.

Opportunities include large scale artworks at key entry locations, vibrant artworks for Paediatric treatment rooms and sensory artworks in the Mental Health Unit.

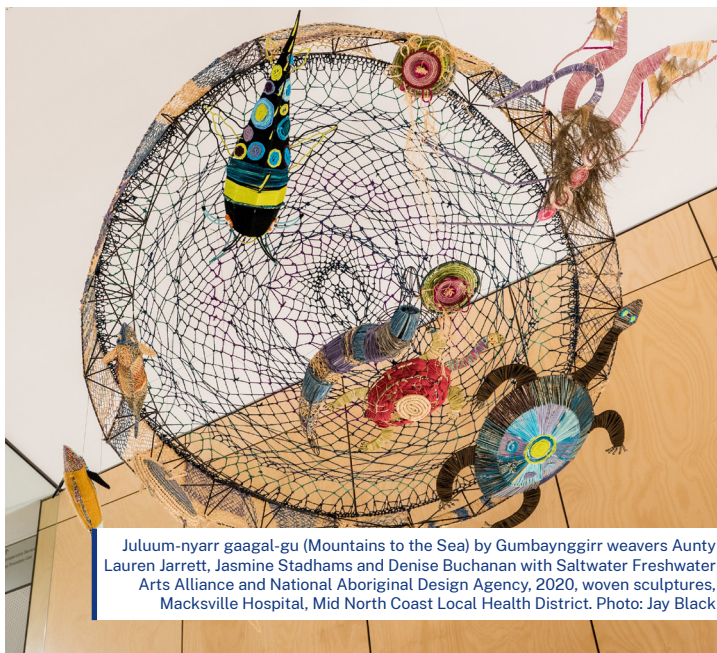
To inform the curatorial approach to the Arts in Health Strategy, Cultural Capital completed comprehensive stakeholder engagement in 2023 speaking with;

- Clinicians who will treat patients in the wards/clinics in the new hospital
- Elders and other representatives from the local Aboriginal community
- Staff representatives from the multicultural and Aboriginal communities
- Staff at Shoalhaven Hospital, beyond clinical practitioners
- Patients who have received treatment at Shoalhaven Hospital

Artworks will be realised in collaboration with project, staff and community stakeholders.



Hiromi Tango, weaving for the new Tweed Valley Hospital, Northern NSW Local Health District.



Julum-nyarr gaagal-gu (Mountains to the Sea) by Gumbaynggirr weavers Aunty Lauren Jarrett, Jasmine Stadhams and Denise Buchanan with Saltwater Freshwater Arts Alliance and National Aboriginal Design Agency, 2020, woven sculptures, Macksville Hospital, Mid North Coast Local Health District. Photo: Jay Black



Artist Brock Chudleigh in front of Goulburn Hospital artwork, Southern NSW Local Health District.

Exposure to the arts has a profoundly beneficial impact, improving patient health and wellbeing and through its use in health promotion and messaging, improving health literacy for individuals and the wider community.

Arts in Health engages artists and uses all art forms including visual, performing, dramatic, literature and heritage arts to connect health services and the communities they serve.

It provides opportunities for artists to create socially engaged work through inter-disciplinary collaboration with communities, hospitals, medical science and research, architects, and designers.

Arts in Health supports spaces for First Nations culture by providing opportunities for First Nations artists and organisations, with projects founded in community engagement and consultation.

The arts is an important part of the Shoalhaven Hospital Redevelopment planning, supporting the health and wellbeing of staff, patients, consumers and visitors and we look forward to showcasing the outcomes as we progress through this exciting process.

Meet Artist Kirli Saunders,

The Shoalhaven Hospital Redevelopment project is pleased to announce Kirli Saunders OAM as the first artist selected for the hospital redevelopment Arts program.

Kirli's artwork will feature at the North Street Entry and will pay homage to Country including the much-loved Blackbutt Tree on the hospital grounds.

The artist was appointed through a culturally informed tender process in line with NSW State Government procurement guidelines and advice from local Aboriginal stakeholders.

The artwork will celebrate the local landscape, incorporating the sacred bends of the Shoalhaven River, the ripples of saltwater, and the graceful intersection of eucalyptus branches. The artwork will bring together natural, cultural and architectural elements to connect staff, patients and visitors with Country, Culture, and Community.

Hailing from the Amato, Micham, Russell, and Hoskins families of the South Coast, Shoalhaven and Sydney's eastern suburbs, Kirli Saunders is a proud Gunai artist with strong ties to the South Coast community of NSW. Kirli is committed to ensuring the design process is culturally informed through engagement with the hospital's Aboriginal Staff Advisory Group, Elders and the local Aboriginal community.

We are delighted to welcome Kirli as one of the artists selected to contribute to the Shoalhaven Hospital Redevelopment arts program and look forward to showcasing her work as the project progresses.



Artist Kirli Saunders, photography by Sarah Tedder

Culture, community and Country

Stakeholders, staff and the community have been consulted throughout the project's development, providing wide-ranging input that has informed the Arts and Culture Strategy.

Community participation in both the development of the Strategy and the creation of artworks will ensure a strong sense of place and connection to the Shoalhaven District Memorial Hospital.

The Arts program is informed by Aboriginal staff, Elders and community to ensure artworks reflect the local environment and cultural values of the Shoalhaven region.



More to come

In February 2025, Artists with a connection to the Shoalhaven region were invited to submit an expression of interest to take part in the arts program. We were delighted to receive 45 submissions and were blown away by the creativity, talent and passion among the local arts community.

A panel of industry professionals and local community stakeholders are continuing to review the applications against the selection criteria and government procurement requirements, and we look forward to announcing more artists as we progress through selection.

Get involved

The Shoalhaven Hospital Redevelopment team welcomes all feedback and suggestions for further art opportunities and integrations. If you would like more information about the arts and culture program or to register your interest in participating in any upcoming workshops, please contact us at shoalhavenhospitalredevelopment@health.nsw.gov.au



Julum-nyarr gaagal-gu (Mountains to the Sea) by Gumbaynggirr weavers Aunty Lauren Jarrett, Jasmine Stadhams and Denise Buchanan with Saltwater Freshwater Arts Alliance and National Aboriginal Design Agency, 2020, woven sculptures, Macksville Hospital, Mid North Coast Local Health District. Photo: Jay Black



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For more information

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