

ARTS AND HEALTH

Partnership commitment between the Department of Health and Arts SA

The Department of Health is committed to improving the health and wellbeing of all South Australians through the development of environments and programs that encourage healthy living and contribute positively to prevention, intervention and recovery.

The Department of Health and Arts SA recognise the positive impact of the arts, including good design, on physical, psychological and spiritual health and wellbeing, and the potential of the arts to improve the quality of healthcare.

Attention to the arts and good design can make the difference between environments and buildings that work and those that excel, and investment in the arts can have a range of health, social, environmental and economic benefits.

The arts have both *intrinsic value* (effects inherent in the arts experience that add value to people's lives, and which may promote health and impact positively on health and wellbeing), and *instrumental value* (where arts programs are established with deliberate health and wellbeing goals that may have nothing to do with art per se).

The Department of Health and Arts SA believe that the arts can contribute to health and wellbeing through a number of approaches:

Architecture and the human environment

- The positive impact of buildings and environments that are inspiring, engender civic pride, create community identity and support healthy living
- The influence of the built environment on the social determinants of health
- The calming and uplifting impact of the human environment on health status, through: the good design of health care facilities and public spaces; and the integration of art into building and environmental design
- The positive impact of good design on healthcare staff, the provision of quality healthcare and retention of staff
- The creative resolution of healthcare logistics such as wayfinding and waiting areas
- The visual enhancement and humanising of the patient environment including access to nature and interior design that is accessible, assists relaxation and speeds recovery

Public artworks

- The enhancement of the environment through quality public artworks, that complement buildings and public spaces and contribute to an enduring aesthetic and identity
- The commissioning of public artworks to make places more accessible and to positively engage patients, staff and the public
- The design of public artwork to create calming, restful, meditative environments that contribute to healing

Arts programs

- The use of art in evidence-based allied healthcare programs to facilitate rehabilitation, and as a medium to enhance professional development
- The power of art to promote health through communication of health-related issues and creation of positive health messages
- The social and personal benefits in: the participation and creation of the arts, in both the community and healthcare settings; and in access to arts programs, including exhibitions and performances

- The value of the arts as a diversion to reduce stress and anxiety and provide a positive focus

To that end, the Department of Health and Arts SA will work together to maximise the potential of the arts to add value to current priority health strategies:

1. Healthcare Infrastructure

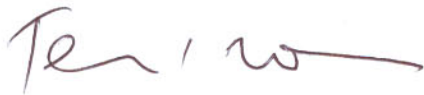
The Department of Health and Arts SA will develop a partnership to ensure arts and design considerations are incorporated into design briefs for health infrastructure programs, and appropriate public art briefs are developed.

2. Arts and the social determinants of health

Arts SA will work collaboratively with health care providers through its grant-funded programs to foster and develop quality community arts programs that strengthen communities and promote health and wellbeing

3. Health in all policies

The Department of Health and Arts SA will explore opportunities for the arts to contribute to key strategies to develop healthier societies.



Tony Sherbon
Chief Executive
Department of Health

1 / 5 / 2008



Greg Mackie
Executive Director
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