

## Media Release – for immediate release

Official opening of *The Art Gallery Gladstone Hospital*

4pm, Friday 14 December 2018

Gladstone Hospital Main Entrance, Level 1 Park Street, Gladstone

### Bringing art to the Gladstone Hospital.

From waiting rooms to hospital wards, our surroundings can impact the way we think and feel. Art can transform cold, clinical environment into a welcoming public space that encourage, enrich and empower everyone who uses it.

Local Artist Katrina Elliott witnessed first-hand the impact art makes in clinical environments during “One Wish” at the Gladstone Hospital, in 2016. Supported by the Gladstone Region Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) “One Wish” involved Oncology Unit patients, carers and staff. “It was one of the most beautiful projects,” Katrina said. “It made such an impact, not only to patients and staff, but also hospital visitors. I knew I had to come back.”

With 12 months of project developing, grant writing and fund raising, Katrina’s latest aspiration to bring more art to the wider hospital has become a reality. The project “The Art Gallery Gladstone Hospital brings opportunities on many levels. Located on Level 1, The Art Gallery is divided into three sections Local Artists, Schools and the Artz Hub. “Artz Hub includes art we make in the hospital,” Katrina said. “I have created an *Art Cart* so I can take art wherever it’s needed. Our first project is to collaboratively create two tile murals to brighten up the walls.”

When developing the project, Katrina was keen to expose art to new areas and build many relationships. The first 12 months will give opportunities to six rural schools and six paid local artists, from the Gladstone Region.

Katrina will visit each of the six schools and work with students to create works for their exhibitions. “This exhibition with Ubobo State School students was lots of fun,” she said. “*What’s that smell?* It’s something everyone can relate to, both good and bad.”

“Our region is full of diverse artists and our first featured local artist, Jean Kane, is the perfect candidate to open *The Art Gallery* with “Laughter is the best medicine,” The exhibition is bright and filled with humours events.

*‘This project was made possible by the Australian Government’s Regional Arts Fund, provided through Regional Arts Australia, administered in Queensland by Flying Arts Alliance.’*

The Art Gallery Gladstone Hospital is supported through *Australian Government's Regional Arts Fund, provided through Regional Arts Australia, administered in Queensland by Flying Arts Alliance*, generous community members, local business AESTEC Services, Katrina Elliott Photography and Central Queensland Hospital and Health Services.

One Wish project was supported by RADF is a Queensland Government and Gladstone Regional Council partnership to support local arts and culture in regional Queensland.

"I am confident the first 12 months will show great outcomes and produce evident statistics and reports attracting supporters for the project to continue in the future," Katrina said.

The Art Gallery Gladstone hospital will be opened by Member for Gladstone Glenn Butcher 4pm, Friday 14 December 2018.

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