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Tuesday 28 November, 2023

NEW ARTWORKS BRIGHTEN COOMA HOSPITAL'S MATERNITY UNIT

New parents, families and visitors to Cooma Hospital's Maternity Department will experience vibrant and engaging artworks commissioned as part of the \$26.6 million Cooma Hospital Redevelopment.

Six local artists from the Cooma region were selected to create artworks for the redevelopment giving the hospital a unique and distinctive identity.

Health Infrastructure Creative Producer, Kattie Bugeja, said the works have been carefully designed to create a calming and comforting environment for new mothers and their families.

"It is wonderful to have these new artworks installed in Cooma Hospital's new Maternity Department, which opened earlier this year as part of the Cooma Hospital Redevelopment," Ms Bugeja said.

"The works are thoughtful and uplifting, celebrating the beauty of the region's natural environments and deep connections with culture and Country," Ms Bugeja said.

The new artworks include five original prints created by local photographer Charles Davis, and artwork created by Ngarigo artist Gail Neuss, entitled *Nura Nganymitung* – meaning Grandmother's Country.

Ms Neuss said her artwork was inspired by creation, life, and new beginnings.

"This artwork created especially for Cooma Hospital's Maternity Department shows connections, the foundation of life, and the many paths that we travel on our journey," Ms Neuss said.

"I was inspired by the rivers and waterways that run through and nourish the Monaro Country.

"Before birth we are surrounded by water which gives us nutrients, warmth and security. The river runs through us like the Murrumbidgee River runs through the Monaro countries supporting life on its ancient journey."

Artist Justine Slough's artwork *The Village* has been installed near the Medical Imaging Department, while Charlotte Bunt has created a unique artwork *River Walk*, which will be installed in the soon to be opened Ambulatory Care Centre.

Works by Mike Edmondson, Belinda Rosenbaum and another artwork by Gail Neuss are expected to be installed in the coming months.

Health Infrastructure's Arts in Health Program integrates arts into NSW Health capital works to create engaging public health spaces and improve clinical health and wellbeing outcomes for patients, staff, and visitors.

The arts program at Cooma Hospital is being delivered as part of the hospital redevelopment, in partnership with Southern NSW Local Health District, artists, and communities.

The Cooma Hospital Redevelopment has delivered an expanded Emergency Department and a new Maternity Department for the community, with a new Ambulatory Care Centre set to be completed by the end of the year.

For more information about the Cooma Hospital redevelopment visit www.hinfra.health.nsw.gov.au/projects/project-search/cooma-hospital-redevelopment

Image and vision of the artwork created by Gail Neuss can be found: [HERE](#)

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