

MEDIA RELEASE

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CELEBRATE. CREATE. CONNECT: THE RCH150 ABORIGINAL ART PROJECT

The Royal Children's Hospital (RCH) and RCH Foundation announce a \$100,000 artwork commission opportunity for First Nations artists.

In 2020 The Royal Children's Hospital (RCH) will celebrate its 150th anniversary. In recognition of this major milestone, the RCH and RCH Foundation will present RCH150, a year-long program to celebrate the extraordinary impact 150 years of great care has had on the children of Australia, and to chart a path towards the future of paediatric healthcare.

Chief Executive Officer, The Royal Children's Hospital Foundation, Sue Hunt said, "to commemorate the 150th Anniversary, the RCH Foundation is commissioning a major work of art created by a First Nations artist to be permanently installed within the hospital's Parkville campus."

The commission is seeking applications of an original design by an Australian First Nations artist or artist collective, with the successful applicant(s) being granted \$100,000 to create their work.

"The RCH and the RCH Foundation acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land and the rich cultural history of our First Peoples," said Ms Hunt. "The project is a unique opportunity for First Nations artists to create a culturally significant legacy and contribute to the future of the RCH."

Aunty Joy Murphy, a Senior Wurundjeri Elder of Melbourne believes this project is a great opportunity for First Nations artists. "Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are Australia's First Peoples, so embracing our cultures is an important part of shaping Australia's future," said Aunty Joy. "There is a huge historical importance and value of art and creativity in our histories, and a public artwork that contributes to the community is very in keeping with our cultures."

Aunty Joy will play an official role in the project development as part of the project steering committee, and is excited to be involved in this new creative initiative. "I'm looking forward to seeing the community share in the valuable outcomes."

The Aboriginal Art Project will open for artists to submit designs on 1 February 2019 and close 31 March 2019 11:59 AEDT. Shortlisted artist design development will commence 6 May 2019 with successful artist(s) notified for final development 24 June 2019. The final project will launch in July 2020.

Visit www.rchfoundation.org.au/aboriginalartproject for more information and to download the creative brief.

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