



**Jillian Skinner**  
Minister for Health

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **NSW LEADS THE WAY IN HEALTH AND ARTS COLLABORATION**

The state's first Health and the Arts Framework was launched today at the NSW Art Gallery by Health Minister Jillian Skinner.

The framework will guide the integration of the arts into the NSW health care system by supporting collaboration between local health services and the arts sector.

"Art already plays an important part in the patient journey in NSW hospitals and health facilities," Mrs Skinner said at the launch.

"There were currently more than 100 health arts initiatives underway in hospitals and health facilities, many of which she had personally experienced on visits to facilities around the state," Mrs Skinner said.

"I am excited about the Framework because it will ensure that NSW continues to lead the way in using the arts to improve the health of our rural, regional and metropolitan communities," she said.

Deputy Premier and Minister for the Arts Troy Grant said the health benefits of art are well known and this framework will ensure those benefits are felt throughout our public health system.

"In many aspects, NSW is blazing new trails when it comes to what a hospital looks and feels like for patients and the arts will play a pivotal role in this new era," Mr Grant said.

Along with the Framework, Mrs Skinner introduced NSW's first Health and The Arts Exchange – an online portal for contemporary arts, health information and activities in local communities.

"The Exchange includes a wealth of information from across NSW and internationally and is designed to support a dynamic, world-class music, arts and health services community," she said.

Mrs Skinner also announced an additional \$500,000 in dedicated funding for local health districts and specialty health networks to create health and arts projects.

While collaboration between health and the arts has long been close to Mrs Skinner's heart, the community's positive reaction to the project had taken her by surprise.

"We have long known that exposure to the arts can have significant and long lasting beneficial impacts on a patient's recovery in hospital," Mrs Skinner said. "But the excitement around this project from both the health and arts sectors was palpable."

NSW Health and The Arts Framework:

<http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/arts/Pages/default.aspx>

Health and The Arts Exchange:

[http://www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au/ie/health-arts-projects/\\_nocache](http://www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au/ie/health-arts-projects/_nocache)