



Jillian Skinner
Minister for Health

MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday, 5 November 2015

NSW TASKFORCE ON HEALTH AND THE ARTS

The NSW Government has established a taskforce to explore new ways in which the arts can benefit the health and wellbeing of people across NSW.

The NSW Taskforce on Health and the Arts is chaired by Chris Puplick AM, a former senator and former Chair of the National Film and Sound Archives. The other members are:

- Margaret Meagher - executive director, Australian Centre for Arts and Health
- Tracey Callinan - executive officer, Arts OutWest
- Kate Dundas - Deputy Secretary, Arts and Culture (NSW Government)
- Sam Sangster - chief executive, Health Infrastructure
- Dr Emma O'Brien - executive director and board member, The Institute for Creative Health
- Amanda Larkin - chief executive, South Western Sydney Local Health District
- Susan Pearce - NSW Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer

Health Minister Jillian Skinner said: "The experience worldwide is that exposure to the arts has a profoundly beneficial impact on a patient's recovery in hospital and wellbeing in the community.

"Health Infrastructure already incorporates the arts in the design of hospitals and health facilities, from creative spaces to installations and artworks.

"This taskforce will explore broader ways in which art can inspire positive health outcomes in the community, from people living with dementia in nursing homes to jail inmates seeking rehabilitation or paediatric patients being inspired to explore creativity and imagination."

Deputy Premier and Arts Minister Troy Grant: "We know the arts and culture can go a long way to enhance wellbeing. This taskforce will examine how we can further harness this power to deliver positive health outcomes for the community."

The NSW Taskforce on Health and the Arts will develop a draft framework to deliver to Minister Skinner in the new year.