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Wiradjuri artist named for Stage 3 project

Artist and Wiradjuri man Owen Lyons has been selected to undertake art work in the new Stage 3 building as part of the final stage of the \$431 million Wagga Wagga Health Service (WWHS) Redevelopment.

Mr Lyons, who lives and works on Wiradjuri country, will focus on the Cultural Courtyard on the ground floor of the new multi-storey Stage 3 building.

The artist was selected by the project's Art Strategy Working Group following an Expressions of Interest from Aboriginal and Torres Islander artists.

The Group also engaged with representatives from the local Wiradjuri community and Murrumbidgee Local Health District (MLHD) Aboriginal Health team members.

MLHD Chief Executive Jill Ludford said, "This is an exciting step for the Redevelopment project. The inclusion of arts into health improves health outcomes and promotes health and wellbeing in the community. It also aims to improve the sense of connection a local community has with the health service."

In addition, local artist Rachel Viski will continue the theme of the art work in Wagga Wagga Base Hospital's paediatric unit to the paediatric areas of Stage 3. Ms Viski's design allows staff, patients and visitors to follow a Mallee fowl around the unit.

In addition, Ms Viski will work with Mr Lyons to develop art work for other parts of the building.

The integration of arts into the design and delivery of health services through the Health Infrastructure Arts in Health initiative can benefit patients, visitors and staff. It includes all art forms including heritage, literature, visual, performing and dramatic arts.

Health Infrastructure Chief Executive Rebecca Wark said, "Studies have shown that incorporating vibrant, positive and engaging artwork into hospitals helps to promote healing. This is one of several arts projects being undertaken across the state."

The third and final stage of the Redevelopment project is due for competition and operational commissioning in 2021. Find out more about the project [here](#).

Media note: Photos of artists Owen Lyons and Rach Viski are available from MLHD Communications on MLHD-News@health.nsw.gov.au

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