Art, healing and hospitals

Dr Cynthia Parr, whose clinical work is focused on Palliative Care, will outline how the use of art and artworks is making a contribution in many different ways to health and healing in hospitals, including improving wellbeing and QOL, improving clinical outcomes from direct treatment and therapy and supporting and training staff. Many initiatives are serving a range of people including those with disabilities, terminal illnesses, chronic illnesses, older people, carers, refugees and people from a wide variety of ethnic origins. “In the 21st century when our expansion of knowledge outpaces our ability to understand and utilize it, we are beginning to pay attention to our basic human needs for safety, community, art and music – and to unlock their meaning and harness their power. This is at the heart of the arts in healthcare movement.”

(State of the Field Report, Arts in Healthcare p 25, 2009)

About Dr Cynthia Parr

Dr Cynthia Parr, an alumnus of the Faculty of Medicine, UNSW, is currently a Staff Specialist in Palliative Medicine based at Greenwich Hospital Community Palliative Care Service. She is part of HammondCare Palliative Care and Supportive Services and is a Consultant in Palliative Medicine in the Northern Sydney Local Health District and also in the North Shore Private Hospital. She is a Clinical Lecturer in the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Sydney.