



Artist's Brief

Midlands Multi-Purpose Health Centre Redevelopment

Commission	Outdoor artwork
Eligibility	Tasmanian artists who meet our general eligibility criteria
Selection process	The selection committee will consider all eligible applications against the selection criteria. The committee will then: • select an artist for the commission, or • shortlist artists to develop ideas further (each shortlisted artist will receive a fee of \$1,000)
Location	Midlands Multi-Purpose Health Centre, 13 Church Street, Oatlands
Audience	Patients, visitors and staff
Fee	\$72,000 + GST (if applicable) for artwork concept, detailed design, fabrication and installation
Key dates	Applications close: Monday 26 October 2026, 11.59pm Artwork installed by: April 2027
Contact	Tobias Hengeveld, Public Art & Industry Development Coordinator (03) 6165 6665 tobias.hengeveld@arts.tas.gov.au
Apply	www.arts.tas.gov.au/public_art

The commission

Arts Tasmania and the Department of Health invite applications from Tasmanian artists to create an outdoor artwork for the central outdoor courtyard of the Midlands Multi-Purpose Health Centre.

Applicants can apply for the commission as an individual artist or in a creative collaboration.

Shortlisted artists will have the opportunity to visit the site.

Background

The Midlands Multi-Purpose Health Centre in Oatlands provides key health services to the people of the Central Midlands Region.

Oatlands is the largest town in the Southern Midlands Council area and is surrounded by rich agricultural land. It is one of Tasmania's oldest settlements and is famous for its intact Georgian townscape, which was mostly convict-built in the early 1800s.

The centre provides 24-hour Accident and Emergency, sub-acute care beds, permanent Residential Aged Care beds and a Palliative Family Care unit for the Midlands community. It also coordinates the delivery of a range of community services, visiting services and community groups such as Community Nursing, Child Health, Disability, Allied Health and Diabetic Education Services. The centre also incorporates a doctor's surgery (including facilities for visiting specialists) and ambulance service.

The centre provides the Oatlands district community with access to vital health services and allows elderly residents who require care to remain in the area.

For more information about the Midlands Multi-Purpose Health Centre visit:

<https://www.health.tas.gov.au/service-finder/midlands-multi-purpose-health-centre>

The centre is undergoing a major redevelopment, including the upgrade of existing aged care residences, and the addition of eight new residential rooms. The works also include a new outdoor courtyard at the centre of the facility.

Objectives

The Department of Health seeks to commission artwork that reflects themes of Oatlands' unique location, community and heritage, and that appeals to its elderly residents and their families.

The artwork will be located in the central outdoor courtyard area of the upgraded facility, adjoining residential rooms, a patio sitting area and a recreation room. The courtyard offers a calm outdoor space for elderly residents and visitors, accommodating elements of seating, plantings and shade in a number of varied settings.

The project team has identified several potential locations within the courtyard for the artwork. The project team is also open to creative responses to the space in general.

Please see the site plan in **Project Document 1**.

The artwork may be one or more works, in one or multiple locations within the courtyard.

Responses might include:

- two-dimensional or low-relief treatments (please note that wall space is limited)
- stand-alone sculpture
- paving or landscaping elements
- seating elements.

Artwork concepts might also be engaging and interactive, offering points of intrigue, rest or reflection for patients and the wider community. As a number of residential patients are living with dementia, concepts that incorporate sensory stimulation are encouraged.

Some suggested conceptual approaches include:

- themes or materials that hold cultural, historical or environmental meaning for Oatlands and its community
- complementing and integrating with the existing building and landscape design to enhance the courtyard experience for users
- encouraging sensory engagement, comfort and calm.

The finished artwork should:

- take into account all accessibility requirements for courtyard users
- suit the site, avoiding materials that are highly reflective or create hot spots
- be robust and suitable for an outdoor setting (risk of vandalism is very low)
- require minimal maintenance or intervention from facility staff
- be designed to last a minimum of 15 years.

Apply

Please provide a CV, examples of relevant prior artwork as well as a written description of your proposed artwork, supported by concept drawings via [our website](#).

How it works

Selection committee

The selection committee is comprised of building users, capital project managers and representatives of partner agencies.

- Bridget Walch – Oatlands Community Advisory Committee
- Gaetano Palmese – Gaetano Palmese Architects
- Mathew Parker – Capital Works Project Manager, Department of Health
- Rachel Boughton – Director of Nursing, Midlands Multi-Purpose Health Centre
- Tobias Hengeveld – Public Art and Industry Development Coordinator, Arts Tasmania

Selection process

The selection committee will choose an artist to work on the commission using four criteria, as follows:

Suitability	To what extent do the artistic concept, design, materials and delivery method address the brief?
Viability	How feasible is the project given the commission budget, constraints and timelines?
Capability	To what extent does the team demonstrate the necessary skills and experience to deliver the commission?
Vision	How well does the proposal demonstrate a creative or innovative vision in terms of concept, media, construction methods, materials and/or collaborations?

Please note that members of the selection committee may sometimes nominate a colleague to participate in the selection process on their behalf.

Commissioning process

Commission agreement

If you are selected to work on the commission, you will be asked to:

- meet with us to discuss arrangements for the commission, such as payment instalments, roles and responsibilities, insurance
- sign a commissioning agreement to confirm this information in writing

Detailed design development

Once you have signed the commission agreement you will be asked to:

- produce a detailed design plan to realise your concept, including artwork specifications such as drawings
- make sure your design meets all relevant building standards
- report regularly to the project team as the commission progresses
- manage all aspects of design through to handover

Fabrication and/or installation

Once your detailed design has been approved by the project team you will be asked to:

- fabricate and/or install your artwork according to the detailed design plan
- meet all work health and safety and other requirements while on site
- keep us updated on progress and let us know as soon as possible if you need to vary the approved timeframe or design

Handover your artwork

Let us know as soon as possible when you are ready to complete your artwork so we can:

- make sure it meets the approved detailed design plan
- provide you with a handover certificate
- document it for our records
- promote it.

General information

The Tasmanian Government Art Site Scheme

This commission is supported through the Tasmanian Government Art Site Scheme. For information about the scheme please visit [the Arts Tasmania website](#).

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island content

If your activity involves Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander content, your application must provide evidence of how you are working with the Aboriginal community. The Tasmanian Government's Office of Aboriginal Affairs can provide advice on working with Tasmanian Aboriginal people and organisations. Please also refer to Creative Australia's [Protocols for using First Nations Cultural and Intellectual Property in the Arts](#).

Code of practice

Arts Tasmania encourages artists and arts organisations to comply with the National Association for the Visual Arts' [Code of Practice for Visual Arts, Craft and Design](#).

Workplace health and safety

Siting artworks in the public domain can result in safety risks for the public and for artists. Building Tasmania requires that commissioned artists comply with [Tasmania's Work Health and Safety laws](#) and the [Work Health and Safety Contractor Standards](#).

If selected for the commission, you will need to have public liability insurance cover of at least \$10 million.

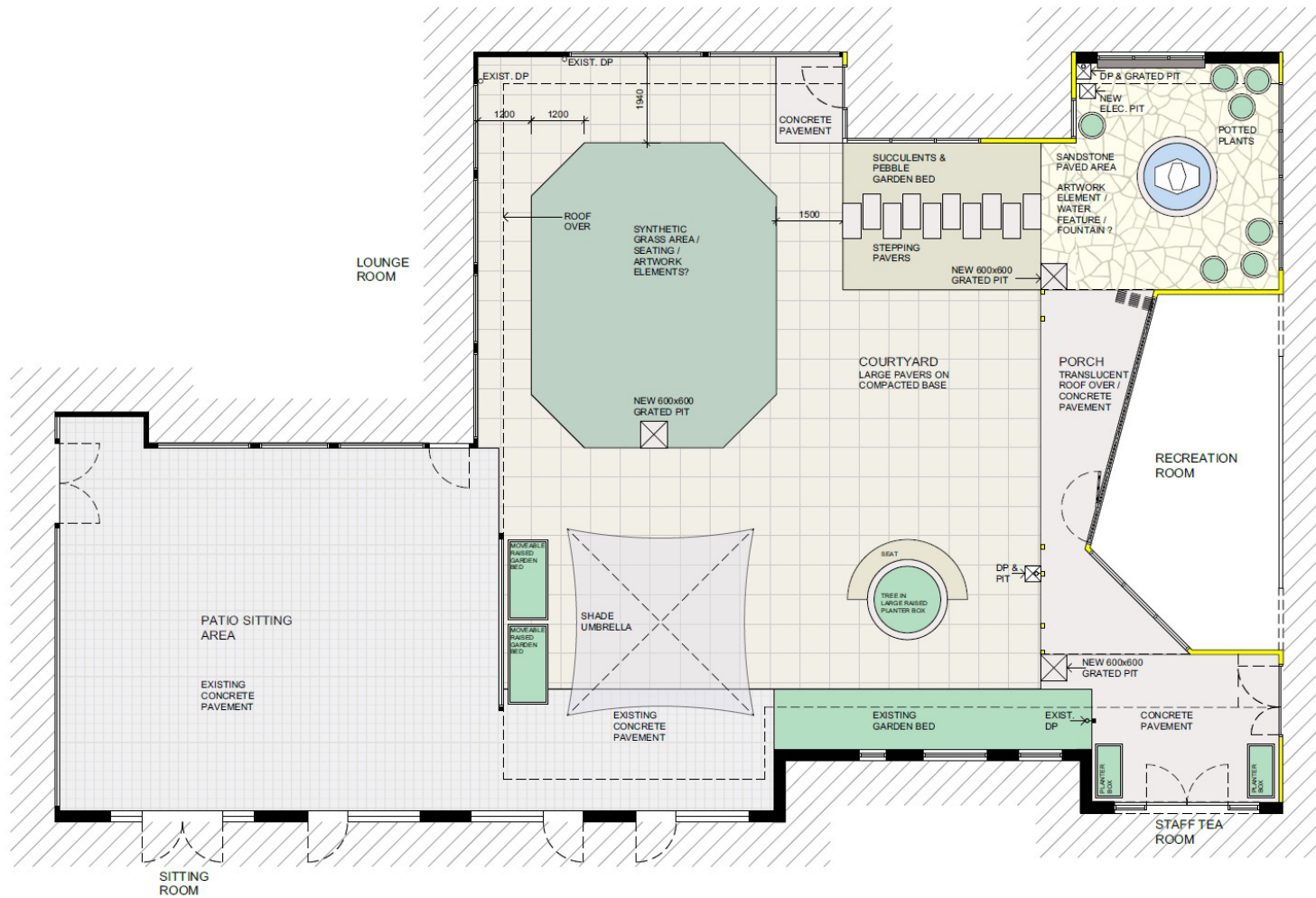
Working with vulnerable people

The [Registration to Work with Vulnerable People Act 2013](#) aims to protect vulnerable persons, including children and young people, from the risk of harm. It requires those working with children and young people to have a current registration and [Working with Vulnerable People \(WWVP\) card](#).

Please visit our website to see Arts Tasmania's [policy on working with children and young people](#).

Project documents

Document 1: Preliminary concept Outdoor Courtyard plan



Document 2: 3D Preliminary renders of Outdoor Courtyard

