



Artist's Brief

Intensive Residential Parenting Unit

Commission	Interior wall-based installation
Eligibility	Tasmanian artists who meet our general eligibility criteria
Selection process	<p>The selection committee considers all eligible applications against the selection criteria. The committee then:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• selects an artist for the commission, or• shortlists artists to develop their ideas further (each artist will receive a fee of \$750)
Location	Intensive Residential Parenting Unit, St Johns Park, New Town
Audience	Parents with infants and toddlers, visitors, staff
Fee	\$47,000 (+ GST if applicable) for artwork concept, detailed design, fabrication and installation
Key dates	<p>Applications close: Monday 23 March 2026, 11:59pm</p> <p>Artwork installed by: TBC - mid 2026</p>
Contact	<p>Dr Alicia King, Program Officer - Public Art</p> <p>03 6166 4507</p> <p>alicia.king@arts.tas.gov.au</p>
Apply	<p>www.arts.tas.gov.au/public_art</p>

The commission

Arts Tasmania and the Department of Health invite submissions from Tasmanian artists to create interior wall-based installation for two walls in the new Intensive Residential Parenting Unit.

Background

The Department of Health is establishing an Intensive Residential Parenting Unit (the Unit) at St John's Park, New Town.

St John's Park is a major colonial and convict historic site. The site originally housed a purpose-built state orphanage that operated until 1879. The construction of the Intensive Residential Parenting Unit within the site incorporates the former parsonage, built circa 1837. Applicants should be mindful and respectful of the historic and cultural sensitivities of the site.

The Unit will provide short-term, intensive residential programs for families experiencing significant parenting challenges. It offers a residential setting where parents can receive culturally safe, family centred support, guidance, and therapeutic interventions to improve their parenting skills and promote family well-being.

Objectives

The commission is for wall-based artwork for two interior walls.

Wall A: Group Room

Artists are invited to create artwork incorporating 2D and low-relief 3D elements, for a wall within the Unit's Group Room.

The Group Room is a flexible, welcoming space designed for small group activities such as parenting courses, play sessions, yoga, and community outreach programs. It accommodates approximately 14+ people with room to move and interact, including parents with infants and toddlers.

Wall B: Lounge area

Artists are invited to create artwork incorporating 2D and low-relief 3D elements, for a section of wall within the Unit's Lounge area. The Lounge area is an open space that is accessible to all residents and visitors.

The spaces aim to provide:

- a pleasant, child-safe environment that feels calm and uplifting
- flexibility to adapt to different types of programs and gatherings
- a sense of connection and comfort for users of all ages.

The commissioned artwork will serve as a key visual and emotional feature within each room, contributing to an identity that is warm, engaging and restorative, and that resonates with the lived experiences of families and young children.

Artists are encouraged to consider:

- the emotional and sensory experience of parents and children — how colour, texture, light, and scale can create reassurance and delight
- interactive storytelling or subtle references to nature and growth, aligning with the site's values of healing and renewal.

The artwork should:

- reflect themes of hope, comfort, emotional connection and growth
- facilitate gentle, interactive or sensory engagement for adults and children without creating any climbing or safety hazards. These might include tactile, visual or kinetic elements that can be safely touched, moved or explored
- spark curiosity and imagination while maintaining a sense of calm and restfulness. Highly stimulating or visually busy artwork could be overwhelming or distressing
- complement, but not overwhelm the design of the space, including the interior colour palette and natural materials of the building
- respond sensitively to the heritage and history of the Parsonage site and the broader environment.

Specific requirements

- The artwork must be designed with child safety as a top priority. All components must be safe for interaction, even in the absence of adult supervision.
- The artwork should avoid mechanical or powered elements or materials that may generate noise, echo, or vibration that could disrupt the restful nature of the space.
- Suitable materials may include paint, printed vinyl, metal, timber, acrylic, mosaic, high-density plastic, or recycled materials. Other materials may be proposed, provided they meet performance, safety and hygiene standards appropriate to a medical setting.
- The artwork must be durable, low maintenance, easily cleaned to uphold hygiene standards and remain in good condition for an expected lifespan of approximately 15 years.
- Compliance with Australian Standards and the Building Code of Australia is mandatory. If necessary, the selected artist must engage qualified consultants (e.g., engineer, playground specialist etc) and include these costs in their budget at the Detailed Design Package stage.
- The selected artist will be expected to consult with key project stakeholders during the Detailed Design Package phase.
- The selected artist will be required to provide a maintenance plan and any relevant technical documentation.

Wall A: Group Room

- The depth of low-relief artwork elements should not exceed 300mm.

Wall B: Lounge area

- The depth of low-relief artwork elements should not exceed 240mm.

Apply

Please complete the SmartyGrants application via [our website](#).

How it works

Selection committee

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

- Lizzie Berry: Assistant Director of Nursing, Child Health and Parenting Service (CHAPS)
- Alicia King: Program Officer, Arts Tasmania
- Hanz Lee: Architect, JAWS Architects
- Dee-Ann Simmons: Project Manager, Department of Health
- Trudi Steedman: Statewide Nursing Director, CHaPS

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. The Department of State Growth requires that commissioned artists comply with [Tasmania's Work Health and Safety laws](#) and the [State Growth 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

If the project involves working with people under the age of 18, or working in a school or child care centre, the selected artist must ensure that:

- They abide by all relevant laws and regulations that apply in Tasmania, and any other jurisdictions in which the Approved Purpose is taking place.
- all collaborators and contractors engaged to work on site hold a "Registration to work with vulnerable people" pursuant to the [Registration to Work with Vulnerable People Act 2013](#).

Details on the requirements in Tasmania are available below:

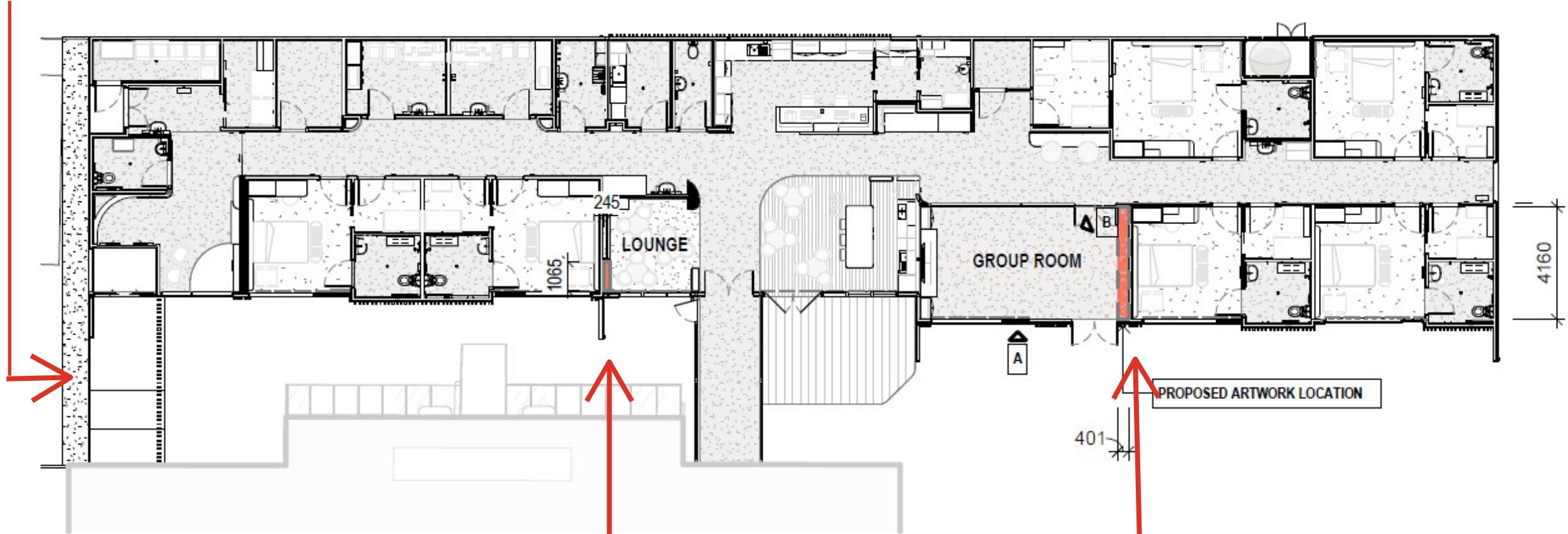
- [Keeping Children Safe](#)
- [Consumer, Building and Occupational Services](#)

Applicants are also strongly encouraged to follow Creative Australia's protocols for working with children. For more information, see the [Children in Art Protocols](#).

Project documents –



ENTRANCE



WALL B: LOUNGE AREA

WALL A: GROUP ROOM

WALL A: GROUP ROOM



WALL A DIMENSIONS

- 3000mm (h)
- 4160mm (w)
- 300mm depth of any low-relief artwork elements

VIEW A



VIEW B

WALL B: LOUNGE AREA



PROPOSED
ARTWORK
LOCATION

WALL B DIMENSIONS

- 3000mm (h)
- 1065mm (w)
- 240mm depth of any low-relief artwork elements

Pantone Colours Hierarchy:

BASE COLOUR:	FEATURE COLOUR:	HIGHLIGHT COLOURS:	COLOUR HARMONIES + PROPORTIONS:		
			20%	50%	30%
PANTONE: 451 C:24 M:22 Y:27 K:10 R:140 G:140 B:117 #879A67	PANTONE: 138 C:25 M:23 Y:26 K:8 R:213 G:129 B:52 #793116	PANTONE: 184 #800000 PANTONE: 4995			
	PANTONE: 4525 C:25 M:19 Y:41 K:15 R:185 G:121 B:148 #A08041	PANTONE: 605 PANTONE: 5775			
	PANTONE: 117 C:22 M:16 Y:33 K:13 R:184 G:144 B:50 #A25030	PANTONE: 714 PANTONE: 5763			
	PANTONE: 612 C:16 M:11 Y:34 K:15 R:143 G:131 B:124 #793116	PANTONE: 505 PANTONE: 4995			
PANTONE: 5845 C:16 M:13 Y:31 K:14 R:159 G:132 B:115 #808068	PANTONE: 451 C:24 M:22 Y:27 K:10 R:140 G:140 B:117 #879A67	PANTONE: 5275 PANTONE: 582			
	PANTONE: 7458 C:11 M:12 Y:24 K:11 R:194 G:134 B:51 #A08041	PANTONE: 685 PANTONE: 556			
	PANTONE: 5773 C:25 M:17 Y:37 K:12 R:151 G:117 B:123 #67546B	PANTONE: 7447 PANTONE: 5560			
	PANTONE: 3975 C:11 M:05 Y:37 K:16 R:177 G:134 B:41 #A08041	PANTONE: 450 PANTONE: 3955			
PANTONE: 450 C:24 M:23 Y:30 K:15 R:119 G:115 B:56 #5E547	PANTONE: 466 C:25 M:18 Y:37 K:11 R:180 G:119 B:101 #A08041	PANTONE: 398 PANTONE: 692			
	PANTONE: 462 C:19 M:03 Y:31 K:21 R:172 G:122 B:51 #A08041	PANTONE: 574 PANTONE: 374			
	PANTONE: 464 C:12 M:34 Y:37 K:29 R:152 G:128 B:29 #5E547	PANTONE: 5825 PANTONE: 500			
	PANTONE: 377 C:13 M:03 Y:38 K:20 R:113 G:140 B:63 #A08041	PANTONE: 364 PANTONE: 7492			



Concept Material Palette by JAWS Architects









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