



First Nations visual art commission: Specialist Palliative Care Service

Expression of Interest (EOI)

Gold Coast Health invites established and emerging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander visual arts practitioners based in South-East Queensland and Northern New South Wales to submit an Expressions of Interest (EOI) to create an original artwork that reflects Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander experiences of palliative care, cultural safety, and holistic health and wellbeing.

For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, health is inseparable from connection to Country, culture, family, community, and identity. It embraces a whole-of-life view that includes the cyclical relationship between life, death, and life. Within community, 'palliative care' may be better understood through terms such as:

- sorry business
- sad business
- final days
- final footprints
- journey to the Dreaming.

Gold Coast Health is committed to supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are diagnosed with a life-limiting illness or approaching the end of their life. We aim to provide culturally safe, respectful, and person-centred care. We support informed decision-making and respect First Nations concepts of wellbeing by including cultural needs and values in our model of care.

The commissioning of this artwork is an important part of Gold Coast Health's First Nations Health Equity agenda.

Artwork produced for Gold Coast Health by Riki Salam, We are 27 Creative

Artistic Direction

The artwork should:

- Be bright and engaging, celebrating life, and reflecting the local Yugambeh region (natural features, landscapes, waters, plants, or animals).
- Respond to themes of living well, and the journey to the Dreaming.
- Celebrate connection:
 - to Country
 - to family
 - to community
 - to the care team supporting the person's journey.
- Support feelings of safety, belonging, comfort and calm for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients and families.

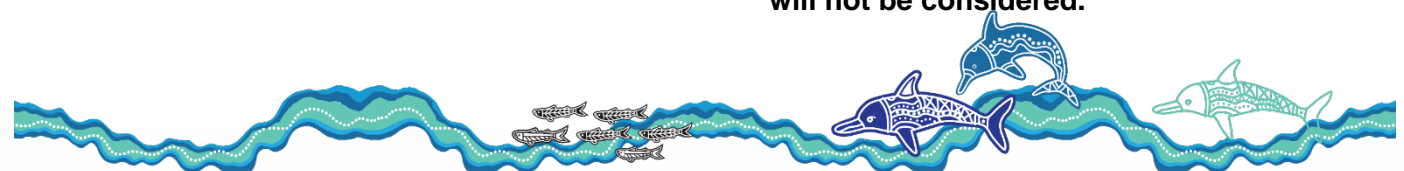
Cultural Guidance

Traditional Custodians request that this commission does not draw on Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property (ICIP) that includes references to, representations of, or explicit retellings of Dreaming stories. Instead, the artwork should draw inspiration from natural features within the Yugambeh language region and broader cultural concepts of health, wellbeing, Country, and connection.

Commissioning guidelines

The preferred medium will be digital, (preferably an EPS file), but Gold Coast Health will consider painting, drawing, or mixed media submissions suitable for vector conversion. If a traditional artform is selected, Gold Coast Health will high-res scan and convert the art to a digital file in the desired format. The commission will measure no less than 841mm x 1189 mm.

Photography, sculpture, and electronic media **will not be considered.**





Licensing and attribution

The commissioned artwork will be attributed to the artist and licensed to Gold Coast Health. The artist will retain moral rights and copyright in their work. The selected artist will grant Gold Coast Health a sole, irrevocable, world-wide, in-perpetuity licence for artwork use within palliative care services.

Permitted use will include:

- Promoting cultural safety, patient experience and comfort.
 - Visual storytelling and cultural narrative across First Nations palliative care collateral (e.g., culture therapy booklet, brochures, information sheets).
 - Development of culturally safe comfort items gifted to First Nations patients (e.g., blankets, socks).
- Creating a safer more welcoming environment.
 - Application in the built environments of Gold Coast University Hospital, Robina Hospital, Coomera Hospital, and community palliative care services.
 - Application in infrastructure, signage, wall treatments, and staff uniform apparel.
 - Vehicle wraps for Specialist Palliative Care vehicles
- Education and Awareness campaigns.
 - Printed and digital communication materials.
 - Publications, display materials, banners, teardrop flags, and social media items.
- the production of an artwork story video and socials cut that will be accessible on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and wellbeing website. Artwork animation may be developed with the artists prior approval if required in the video narrative.

ICIP

'Based on the right to self-determination, Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property (ICIP) rights are Indigenous People's rights to their heritage and culture. Heritage includes all aspects of cultural practices, traditional knowledge, and resources and knowledge systems developed by Indigenous people as part of their Indigenous identity. ICIP rights also cover literary, performing and artistic works, languages, types of knowledge, including spiritual knowledge, tangible and intangible cultural property, Indigenous ancestral remains and genetic material, cultural environmental resources, sites of Indigenous significance and documentation of Indigenous heritage.' ([Janke, T. 1997](#))

First Nations artists who are commissioned to develop a concept or final work will be asked to demonstrate that they have appropriate approval to use any ICIP knowledge, stories or other cultural elements contained in their work. GCHHS reserve the right to verify the origin of ICIP and/or respective approval to use ICIP, as may be reasonably required to ensure accuracy and integrity of ICIP use and attribution.

Key information

EOI open date: 28 November 2025

EOI close date: 22 December 2025

Commission amount:

- Up to three shortlisted artists to be paid \$1000 (excluding GST) each, to develop a concept which reflects Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander experiences of palliative care, cultural safety, and holistic health and wellbeing.
- \$30,000 (excluding GST) awarded to one selected artist for:
 - complete artwork (digital or medium suitable for vector conversion),
 - execute in-perpetuity artwork license agreement with Gold Coast Health,
 - development of artwork guidelines,
 - production of video artwork story.



Eligibility

To apply for this EOI, applicants must meet the following criteria:

Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander heritage: Applicants must identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, and must confirm their heritage, connection to clan or country, and relevant affiliations.

Region: Applicants must currently reside in South-East Queensland or Northern New South Wales and have a significant cultural connection to the region now known as the Gold Coast.

Citizenship: Applicants must be an Australian citizen or permanent resident.

Application limit: One application per artist will be accepted.

Selection Criteria and Process

Commission Selection

All entries will be assessed by a panel to develop a shortlist of up to three artists who will be invited to develop concept designs. Designs will be assessed on visual impact and reflection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander experiences of palliative care, cultural safety, and holistic health and wellbeing.

All applicants will be contacted via email to confirm the outcome of their submission.

Selection Criteria

To apply for this EOI, please submit the following:

- **Cultural Connection:** A brief statement (maximum 100 words) confirming your Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander heritage. Proof of south-east Queensland / Northern New South Wales residence by a home address on the Gold Coast and/or surrounds OR a statement detailing your connection to the Gold Coast region.
- **Artist Statement:** A brief statement (maximum 500 words) outlining your background, and your artistic practice. Include any previous work or experience that demonstrates your ability to create artwork for healthcare or public settings, and/or your experience working with cultural narratives which reflect connection to Country, family and community in a wellbeing context.

- **Technical capabilities:** A statement confirming your ability to provide your artwork in digital format or that the medium is suitable for digital conversion.
- **Artwork Portfolio:** Artists should provide examples that showcase their creative skills, technical ability, and artistic style. Submissions should highlight the artist's capacity to produce high-quality work. This can include up to **5 images** (maximum 5MB each) of **existing artwork** that demonstrate the artists ability to produce an artwork, relevant to the theme. Please ensure that your submitted examples clearly demonstrate your artistic abilities and your understanding of the EOI theme.

Selection Process

This commission is for an original artwork which will be considered by the selection panel in Step 2. Any concepts or proposals submitted will not be assessed in Step 1.

A two-step process will be used to select artists.

STEP ONE

Artists make a submission to the EOI Selection criteria. The EOI **strictly closes at 5pm on 22 December 2025**. The selection panel will recommend up to three artists to be placed on a shortlist.

Late applications will not be accepted.

STEP TWO

Following Step one of the EOI, the selection of shortlisted artists, will be invited to develop a concept in response to the art brief and paid a fee of \$1000 (excluding GST) for submission of the concept.

The selected Artists can submit **existing artwork** or **new works** that reflect reflection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander experiences of palliative care, cultural safety, and holistic health and wellbeing.

Concept submissions will be a sole work which is original to the artist. Collaborations will not be considered for this initiative.

Based on the quality and appropriateness of the concept proposals, one artist will be selected by the Assessment Panel to submit the artwork for



commission and execute the in-perpetuity artwork license agreement with Gold Coast Health.

First Nations Health Equity

Gold Coast Health is committed to supporting First Nations arts practitioners and promoting positive health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

This project collaborates with First Nations artists to progress **health equity**. We look forward to receiving your application to drive meaningful change for First Nations communities.



EOI Selection Criteria

Applications will be assessed by a panel against the following criteria:

1. **Artistic merit:** The artistic quality of the material submitted, including the applicant's demonstrated creative practice, the visual impact and originality of the artwork(s) provided.
2. **Previous relevant art experience:** Demonstrated experience in producing artwork for public or healthcare settings, and any previous involvement in using art to engage with healthcare or community-based narratives, especially those which reflect First Nations connection to Country, family and community in a wellbeing context.
3. **Response to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander experiences of palliative care, cultural safety, and holistic health and wellbeing:** The artist's engagement with and response to the theme and Artistic Direction.
4. **Ability to meet technical requirements:** The artwork should be either digital or suitable for digital file conversion. Motifs or elements that can be used as stand alone items and/or as linear repeats will be considered favourably.
5. **Ability to meet the commission deadline:** Artists must demonstrate their ability to deliver the commissioned artwork by **28 February 2026**.

Applicants are to apply via email
GCHFirstNationsHealthEquity@health.qld.gov.au

Applicants are to provide the following:

- ☐ Full Name
- ☐ Contact email address and phone number
- ☐ A maximum 1-page current CV, relevant to digital art, painting, drawing and/or mixed media.
- ☐ **Cultural Connection:** Proof of residence in South-East Queensland or Northern New South Wales by a home address OR up to 100-word statement detailing a significant connection to the Yugambeh language region.
- ☐ **Artist Statement:** A maximum 500-word description of your current artistic practice, experience, achievements, and career highlights as an emerging or professional practitioner. Include your interest in this commission and the theme Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander experiences of palliative care, cultural safety, and holistic health and wellbeing.
- ☐ **Selection Criteria:** A maximum 500-word response addressing the EOI selection criteria. Include your ability to meet the technical requirements.
- ☐ **Artwork Portfolio:** Up to five (5) relevant examples of your works submitted as a single PDF, including titles, dates of work, medium (under 5MB).

More information

Contact:

Paula Rankmore
Program Manager, First Nations Health Equity
Gold Coast Health

Email:

GCHFirstNationsHealthEquity@health.qld.gov.au



Key Dates

Expression of Interest Opens	28 November 2025
Expression of Interest Closes	22 December 2025
Step 1 – Panel reviews submissions and short list notified	23 December 2024
Step 2 - Short listed artists to submit concept designs	23 Dec – 09 February 2026
Panel reviews submissions	10-13 February 2026
Selected artist notified	17 February 2026
Artwork delivered and license agreement signed	02 March 2026