

Government of Western Australia
PERCENT FOR ART SCHEME



DONGARA HEALTH CENTRE • 2023





Local artist Kelli Dawson has created a suite of integrated and applied artworks for the Dongara Health Centre. Her visual aesthetic compliments and celebrates the connections that stitch the Dongara community, its geographical location, unique identity and this facility together.

Kelli's print, watercolour and thread artworks focus on the connection point of the Irwin River estuary, where the fresh calm waters flow from farmlands into the Indian Ocean linking the land and sea. Meandering stitches in her work mimic river paths, tide lines and beach scenes on a backdrop of watercolour and collage.

'The rains come, and freshwater flows from red dirt country into the vastness of the Indian Ocean.

There is a brief dance before the river disappears into the sea and the estuary stills once again.

The cyclic connection of earth, river, beach and ocean continues.

Kelli's use of fabric, thread and stitch links traditional and maternal craft, evoking familiarity, comfort and healing. Her materials are nurturing and resonate with the practical aspects of medical care, such as dressings and stitches. Dots and circular imagery including urchins and the moon celebrates growth, cycle and continuity. The beaches, estuary and river that inspire these works are an integral part of the history and lifestyle of Dongara.

Sections of Kelli's textural artworks were adapted to develop a suite of interconnected artworks incorporated into the fabric of the redevelopment. At the Centre's main entry and at the sliding screens of the Ambulatory entry, the artist designed patterns reflecting ocean views. She stitched beach imagery using water jet cutting into blue powder coated aluminium. Internally, in the

waiting areas, textured collage has been printed onto vinyl. In addition, imagery has been applied to glazing in corridors within the Centre.

Collectively, Kelli's artworks use familiar, traditional techniques and a language of materials that will be a treasured addition to the Health Centre, complementing and enhancing both the external and internal spaces, while encouraging the users to feel a sense of connection, pride and belonging in this rich community.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Artist:	Kelli Dawson
Title:	"Connections"
Architects:	Finn Pedersen, Director – Iredale Pedersen Hook Architects Aaron Cunningham, Architect – Iredale Pedersen Hook Architects
Art Coordinator:	Alison Barrett
Photography:	Kelli Dawson
Client:	Karen Lynch, WA Country Health Service (WACHS – Midwest)
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GPS Coordinates:	-29.26517, 114.93408



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