



# **Media Statement**

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Wednesday July 2014

## **Award winning artist leads Busselton Health Campus public art project**

Western Australian artist Loreenna Grant has been selected from an impressive field of candidates to create the public artworks which will be displayed at the new Busselton Health Campus.

WA Country Health Service - South West Regional Director Grace Ley said she was delighted to have an artist of Loreenna's calibre working on the public art project.

"It is fantastic to have someone with Loreenna's background in sculpture and design both in Australia and overseas, including many public art commissions, exhibitions and awards," she said.

Using timber from the site's recycled peppermint trees, Loreenna has collaborated with a number of local artists and experts on the design features for the artwork known as the 'Healers'.

With a particular high regard for nature she often integrates her art to the landscape creating sculptural and experimental moments where art and ecology fuse into one.

Loreenna's concept is based on the wind currents along the coast where the campus is situated, the Busselton jetty, the curling tail of the resident possums and the coiling snake of the Hippocratic Oath.

She is no stranger to unique and powerful designs having worked on a number of public art projects throughout her illustrious career.

However she is enjoying the "challenges" of this project due to the complexity and unknowns of working with peppermint timber.

"I have a small group of experts who are helping me to figure out the complexities of this timber which has revealed to us some of the most beguiling surprises," said Loreenna.

"This is a wood that many have described as rubbish probably due to the fact that it is notoriously knotty and has areas of rot. However my colleagues and I have embraced these features and have marvelled at its uncanny similarity to French Oak."

A number of prototypes have been developed so the small team can observe how the timber swells and constricts in the elements and make adjustments along the way.

One adjustment was to combine the timber with steel elements which will be created by Perth's DenMac Industries who specialise in architectural metalwork and cladding.

The artworks will be displayed in the main foyer of the new campus as well as the hospital courtyard.

"We have nicknamed the pieces 'Big Healer and Little Healer' which we feel is appropriate given the hospital surroundings," said Lorena.

"We think we are in new territory with The Healers; there is still a way to go in the process but we have a quiet excitement about the finished product."

The Busselton Health Campus development is part of the State Government's bigger picture in health. To find out more, visit <http://getthebiggerpicture.health.wa.gov.au>

Media contact: Peter Cogan WACHS Communications 6145 4166.