



**HOPE  
HEALTHCARE**

# media release

*For immediate use*

## **Art – a bridge of expression and meaning for people with life threatening illness**

**Celebrating a life affirming activity at Neringah Hospital**

A small exhibition of mono-prints, drawings and paintings titled *Omega* consisting of 25 works by patients at Neringah will be available for viewing:

**10.30am - 3pm Wednesday 25 September**

**The Education Centre Neringah Hospital**

**4-12 Neringah Avenue South**

**Wahroonga.**

Patients at Neringah are able to participate in fortnightly art meetings that for some may offer a focus of concentration away from pain, or exploration of ideas and thoughts, while for others it may provide an arena to express that which words cannot - including the religious and spiritual. The meetings are held in an environment of social sharing where respect, empathy, humour and spontaneity are important.

The art meetings offer a bridge of meaning and expression between the individual, their illness, and their family and even to the palliative care team.

Arts facilitator Stephen Dernocoure has been responsible for Neringah's specialised art program since 1997. He will talk about the program and the process involved, after 11 am and at 1 pm.

*Neringah provides integrated inpatient and a comprehensive community palliative care service. Palliative care is about caring for people with a terminal illness not responsive to curative treatment, as well as their families and friends. Most people receiving palliative care have cancer, but some have diseases like motor neurone disease, HIV/AIDS or end stage heart, lung or kidney failure. It involves a multidisciplinary health care team that may include doctors, nurses, allied health workers, chaplains and volunteers, and provides coordinated physical, psychological, emotional and spiritual support. Diversional activities such as art therapy have an important role in the inpatient care provided.*

**Sydney 20 September 2002**

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**Specialised public health care**

Hope Healthcare *incorporating*  
**Neringah Hospital      Greenwich Hospital      Graythwaite Nursing Home      Braeside Hospital**  
A ministry of the Anglican Deaconess Institution Sydney