



Children share a few of their favourite things in art book

Artworks of the things that children hold closest to their heart will form the contents of a unique children's book when it is launched at The Children's Hospital at Westmead this December.

The book, titled "Many Treasured Things", will feature a collection of artworks created by patients at The Children's Hospital at Westmead and K/1 students from Miller Public School.

Twenty nine adolescent patients involved in the Youth Arts Program and twenty-two K/1 Miller Public School students participated in the creative book project to create a 38 page visual story that gives a unique insight into the thoughts of children and young people.

Inspiration for the project was drawn from conversations with young people about the things they treasure most in their lives and the things that would comfort them most during a stay in hospital.

The Department of Adolescent Medicine's Youth Arts Coordinator, Natalie Anderson said across the two generations of artists, the things both groups treasured were very similar.

"When we were talking to our young patients and children, we discovered that the things they valued the most remained the same despite their overall health status and this was reflected in their artworks," Natalie said.

"In each one of the artworks, it was the elements of family, pets and memories that really stood out and the elements that make the book such a powerful communication tool for other children staying in hospital."

The book was produced by The Department of Adolescent Medicine's Youth Arts Program, a program that has been running at The Children's Hospital at Westmead for over 25 years, giving patients the space to maintain 'normalisation' by helping to develop concepts around identity and connect with peers through meaningful activities.

Both student and patient artists as well as their teachers will attend the launch, where their featured artworks will also be on display.

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