

18th April 2011

Marrickville Council funding for 'A Sibs Art Project'

Marrickville Council has funded an important project to assist children who have a brother or sister who has a disability.

Many children's lives are profoundly affected by living with siblings who have a disability. While the needs of children with disabilities, especially Autism Spectrum Disorders, have received considerable media and political attention, there is less awareness of the lives of their brothers and sisters.

Coordinated by Pathways Early Childhood Intervention, the Sibs Art Project included a two day workshop led by four artists on the 18th and 19th of April.

The children are producing art works which will be exhibited at the Chrissie Cotter Gallery.

Jessica Kean, the Sibs Coordinator at Pathways said the photographs and artworks in this exhibition will shine a light on the many young people in the Marrickville LGA whose siblings have disabilities.

"These children live with caring responsibilities, intensive and ambivalent emotions, difficulties and concerns, and an awareness of diversity and difference well beyond their years".

"It will provide the community with an opportunity to learn more about the effect of disability on families and young people".

Pathways is an organisation that provides a range of early childhood intervention and family centred programs for families.

Pathways has been running a range of activities for siblings as part of their philosophy of acknowledging and attempting to address the needs of every individual in the families who access their services.

"The Sibs Art Project could not have become a reality without funding from Marrickville Council, donations of materials from Reverse Garbage and the dedicated volunteer time of our staff and families," Ms Kean said.



Pathways Early Childhood Intervention Inc

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The four artists guiding the children are :

- Isaac Gallagher who works in sculpture and performance. Isaac enjoys pulling things apart and remaking them particularly using found materials.
- Graham Chalcraft works in public art, making places with meaning through consultation and input from stakeholders and communities.
- Jo McGeorge combines photography with other mediums and is studying to become an art teacher.
- Annie Coroneos works with various age groups in Australia and overseas. She uses diverse materials including clay, leather, metal, fabric and paint.

"Once upon a time I discovered art – it was fun and now I love to help others discover their creative path," said Annie, one of the artists.

The Sibs Art Project will exhibit the art produced by the children at the Chrissie Cotter Gallery, Pidcock St Camperdown on May 26th-29th 2011.

Opening night will be Thursday 26th May 6-10pm.

Ms Kean said "The Sibs Art Project showcases the work of the many siblings involved with Pathways Early Childhood Intervention. It is a celebration of what it is to be a SIB".

This project was supported by funding from Marrickville Council.

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