

Media Release



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For immediate release

SAMARITANS MARKS YOUTH HOMELESSNESS MATTERS DAY WITH ART EXHIBITION

Samaritans will open its annual Collectors Care Art Exhibition in Newcastle next Wednesday, hoping the collection of more than 90 works from various artists will draw in local art lovers to support a great cause.

The exhibition's opening night coincides with Youth Homeless Matters Day and this year, proceeds of the event will support young people needing support in our community.

"Youth homelessness is a bigger issue than people realise and this is an opportunity for us to draw attention to the cause and raise funds to do something about it," Samaritans Chief Executive, Peter Gardiner, said.

"Too many young people in our local community are sleeping rough because they simply do not have a safe place to sleep at night. This is an opportunity for us to make a statement that collectively, we care about youth and that we are working hard to support them," Mr. Gardiner said.

Every year the exhibition contributes thousands of dollars to Samaritans work in the local community, while giving people an opportunity to purchase their own piece of art at a reduced price and support a good cause.

"Collectors Choice, of which Collectors Care is an offshoot, was instituted by the late Anne von Bertouch in 1963 to make quality art work accessible to all," Curator of the exhibition, Gael Davies, said.

"The tradition has carried on through Collectors Care and this year's exhibition will feature oils, watercolour, glass, sand blown copper, sculpture and painted wooden cases." Ms Davies said.

"We encourage everyone to come along and take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to enrich their own environment as well as assisting those less fortunate," Mr Gardiner said.

The public are most welcome to join artists and valued sponsors, Print Nova and Event Cinemas on opening night April 5, 6pm-8pm.

All works in the exhibition are priced below \$1500 with a commission from each sale donated to the Samaritans Foundation.

The exhibition will run April 5 to April 9 at Newcastle Art School, 590- 608 Hunter St TAFE campus.

For full exhibition details and times, visit <http://www.samaritans.org.au/cms/event/collectorscare/>

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WHAT: Collectors Care Art Exhibition **WHERE:** Newcastle Art School, 590-608 Hunter St Newcastle (TAFE)
WHEN: Wednesday April 5 at 6pm (opening night).

Media Contact: Samaritans Communication Coordinator, Laura Dawson on 4960 7157 or 0438 475 772.
Peter Gardiner and Gael Davies are available for interviews/photograph and media are encouraged to attend opening night.

