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GOOD NEIGHBOURS CONNECTS GENERATIONS THROUGH ART

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Good Neighbours Australia (GNAU) is launching its 2023 Connection Through Creativity intergenerational art project for Sydney's culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities, catering for up to 480 young and elderly participants across 16-weeks of beginners' art classes, from July to November.

Sponsored by the NSW Government and hosted by GNAU, the free art classes aim to overcome social isolation and foster connections between young adults, aged 18 to 40 years, and Senior members of the Chinese, Filipino, Indian, Sri Lankan and other multicultural communities in Sydney.

"These classes provide a chance for people to get out of the house, learn a new skill, meet new people, create art and lots of fun memories. Above all, I hope they'll value the experience of caring for each other as good neighbours," said Sylvia Lee, Executive Director of GNAU.

Under the guidance of an experienced art instructor, each class will see 15 young adults paired with 15 Seniors to work on a complementary painting. Each group will meet for 4 weeks, strengthening their bonds over time. The classes are specifically designed to stimulate conversation as participants connect over creating art and sharing morning tea.

Many of the young adult participants will be recruited through a new partnership with the Australian Catholic Universities' community engagement team, which encourages students to volunteer and work with people who may experience disadvantage or marginalisation as part of their studies.

Other new partners for the program include SydWest Multicultural Services in Blacktown, the Inner West Library network and the Philippine Australian Society for Senior Citizens.

GNAU first piloted the art project amongst seniors and young adults in the Strathfield community in 2022.

"This program provided me with a chance for interaction ... after isolation forced on us by COVID", said one participant. Others provided feedback that "... sessions would help them have long-lasting and deeper connections amongst participants".

The pilot program was judged such a resounding success, with 100% satisfaction ratings recorded amongst participants via a post-event survey, that GNAU pitched the concept to the NSW Government in late 2022. GNAU received grant funding to roll the program out for 4 new CALD communities in 2023.

The 2023 Connection Through Creativity intergenerational art project schedule includes:

Month	Connection Through Creativity - Dates and Locations
July, 2023	Thursday 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th July - Chinese Seniors Program, SydWest Multicultural Services, Level 2, 125 Main Street
August, 2023	Friday 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th August - Philippine Seniors Program, Parish Hall, Our Lady of the Rosary Church, 18 Vine St, Fairfield
September, 2023	Friday 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th September - Inner West Library Seniors Program, St Peters/Sydenham Library, St Peters Town Hall Building, 39 Unwins Bridge Road, Sydenham
October, 2023	Thursday 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th - Sri Lankan / Indian Seniors Program, SydWest Multicultural Services, Level 2, 125 Main Street, Blacktown

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ABOUT GOOD NEIGHBOURS AUSTRALIA

Good Neighbours Australia is the Australian entity of Good Neighbors (spelling refers to our global office), established in 2018. Under the Good Neighbors Partnership, we support in-field projects for our local communities and support international projects with our partner countries including Cambodia, Mozambique, the Philippines and Vietnam.

Please don't hesitate to contact Belinda on 0416 030 381 if you have any media enquiries.