

9 February 2021



Re: Official Information Act request – DHB Art Collection

I refer to your Official Information Act request dated 21 December 2020 requesting the following information:

I am writing to request information about the district health board's art collection, if it has any. I make this request under the Official Information Act.

The request is as follows:

- 1. How many pieces of art does the DHB own? Art includes any artwork, including drawings, paintings, sculptures, statues, photographs, or any other types of art.**
 - 2. Please state what the art is – eg a painting, who the artist is, whether the art was donated or purchased, and the value of the artwork. If a sculpture or statue, what or who does the art depict?**
 - 3. If the artwork was purchased, how much did it cost to buy and when was it bought?**
 - 4. What is the combined total value of all of the DHB's art?**
 - 5. Where is the artwork housed? Eg, which hospital, building, wing, ward?**
 - 6. Has the DHB ever donated or loaned any art and if so to who, when, for how long and why?**
 - 7. Is the art insured and if so for how much? Has any art ever been stolen and if so was it recovered?**
 - 8. Has any of the art ever been damaged and repaired and if so when, and how was it damaged?**
 - 9. Has the DHB ever undertaken an art audit and if so when?**
 - 10. What is the benefit to patients of the artwork?**
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- 1. How many pieces of art does the DHB own? Art includes any artwork, including drawings, paintings, sculptures, statues, photographs, or any other types of art.**

There are 2929 art works in the DHB database which include; donated and purchased art works, memorabilia and archival material.

2. Please state what the art is – eg a painting, who the artist is, whether the art was donated or purchased, and the value of the artwork. If a sculpture or statue, what or who does the art depict?

With almost 3000 items answering this question is not practical. Also, Auckland DHB would be concerned with risk inherent in stating the value of any specific item.

In response we therefore note that the art work in the hospital includes; water colours, tapestry, tapa, drawings, acrylic and oil on canvas or board, photographic prints, fine art digital prints, screen-prints, etchings, relief prints, woodcuts and mezzotints. The art works, purchased from donated funds, are predominantly framed works on paper as they are less expensive than works on canvas and can easily be restored, or repaired.

Unless donated, artworks purchased are predominantly by NZ artists and includes a range of Maori, Pacific, and Pakeha artists, as well as a variety of styles, mediums and subject matter. When purchasing works by donated funds, consideration is given to the subject matter and style of works that are most suited to the intended site. For example, when purchasing for the Fraser MacDonald unit, works would be figurative, bright, clear, and include subjects/objects (e.g. boat, foods) and NZ scenes that would be recognisable to patients who may be suffering from dementia related illnesses. Similarly in some of the wards/units where patients are very ill and may be heavily sedated and medicated.

There are a very limited number of sculptures in the hospital as by its very nature, sculpture, occupies and intrudes into space and can be easily damaged or stolen. There are 3 sculptures in the collection: two depict a 'Mother and child' and are in Maternity/ Women's Health, while the other is of a stylised sail/waka and is on the Ground Floor of the main hospital. There are also a number of Tukutuku panels and Maori carvings in the main hospital.

3. If the artwork was purchased, how much did it cost to buy and when was it bought?

When the art register was first established Frances Davies, Director of the International Art Gallery, determined that there was no significantly valuable works of art held by the DHB and the majority had no or unknown commercial value. This would be due to the age, condition and nature of items .

Much of the recent Art that you see around the hospital today, in the public and patient spaces, is provided by funds donated to the A+ Trust, or donated by individuals, patients, families of patients and artists. Art Works purchased from A+ Trust donated funds:

Range (\$'s)	Number of Works	\$ Cost
\$0-\$500	273	\$75,780.00

\$501 - \$1,000	220	\$153,170.00
\$1,001-\$2,000	82	\$113,127.00
\$2,001-\$3,000	7	\$17,403.00
\$3,000-\$5000	2	\$,8697.00
Total	584	\$368,177.00

4. What is the combined total value of all of the DHB's art?

The total value of the art (which includes some donated and A+ Trust purchased art) is \$493,384.00. The DHB has not valued the art collection, however the DHB art curator advises that as the majority of the purchased and donated works are works on paper, their individual commercial values may not meet increased values at auction and could be significantly less than the original purchase price.

5. Where is the artwork housed? Eg, which hospital, building, wing, ward?

The artwork is housed throughout the ADHB and primarily covers the Grafton and Greenlane Hospital sites. Art is generally purchased for Public spaces and patient areas, such as wards, day clinics and waiting areas.

Grafton Site: Main hospital buildings, Oncology, Te Whetu, Fraser MacDonald Public Corridors, Wards, Out Patient Clinic Waiting Rooms, Maternity

Green Lane: All Departments, buildings, Outpatient Clinics' Reception and Waiting Areas. Main Corridors, Day Surgery, Recovery Rooms.

Art works are also moved between sites and departments to refresh spaces.

6. Has the DHB ever donated or loaned any art and if so to who, when, for how long and why?

The DHB does not donate or loan art.

7. Is the art insured and if so for how much? Has any art ever been stolen and if so was it recovered?

The art as inventory is covered by national DHB insurance policies; however for the loss of individual items ADHB is effectively self-insured. Some items have been removed/stolen in separate incidents. (A minimal number of pieces as works are in public areas and are locked on the wall). No stolen items have ever been recovered.

8. Has any of the art ever been damaged and repaired and if so when and how was it damaged?

Art does get damaged, through general wear and tear and also by large trolleys occasionally running into them. They are repaired. Works are also refreshed and modernised with new framing and mats, when needed

9. Has the DHB ever undertaken an art audit and if so when?

A physical inventory of artworks was completed in 2016 and the data-base was subsequently updated where necessary. Purchased and donated works are numbered, photographed and entered onto a data-base that includes the site of hanging, artist, title, medium, description and purchase price.

10. What is the benefit to patients of the artwork?

A visit to hospital can be a time of anxiety, trauma and fear, and having art in the hospital can help create a warmer, more humanised environment.

There are many long-term patients in the hospital, along with their visitors, so art provides a more visually stimulating and interesting environment that gives patients/visitors something to look at, to talk about and to think about. Good mental health increases good outcomes in recovering patients.

You are entitled to seek a review of the response by the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, or an edited version of this response, may be published on the Auckland DHB website.

Yours faithfully



Ailsa Claire, OBE

Chief Executive of Te Toka Tumai (Auckland District Health Board)