

# MEDIA RELEASE

June, 2016

## ROOM19

A short film called ROOM19 has been made with consumers of the Integrated Mental Health Inpatient Unit in Whyalla, to be used by staff supporting new consumers of the unit.

Created as part of the new partnership between Country Arts SA and Country Health SA, the film will provide information about the facility, staff and arts program and will be used as an integral tool used by staff and new consumers during the admissions process to the Unit.

Filmmaker Tim Standing from Adelaide-based company, Daylight Breaks Productions, spent an intensive week in April working with consumers of the integrated unit to develop content they felt would be helpful to new consumers navigating an unfamiliar environment.

*“ROOM19 will provide a unique and invaluable insight into the day-to-day activity of the unit whilst offering a glimpse of the artistic processes and consumer engagement in the making of the film,”* said Country Health SA Director of Mental Health Strategic Operations, Umit Agis.

Although the primary aim of this (or any other arts in health project) is not the development of new skills in any given arts practice, consumers with a desire to learn more will be supported and links to the community established. It is anticipated that local artists mentored through the project may become vital in connecting individual consumers who have had a positive arts experience in the unit with the thriving Whyalla arts community.

*“This project has had a positive effect on the consumers who chose to be involved in the filmmaking process and were able to develop creative skills in a relaxed, no pressure and no skills required environment.”* said Community Arts & Cultural Development Producer Alison Howard.

*“Without structured activity in the unit, consumers who, for a variety of reasons, choose not to participate in activities offsite, are left without much to occupy their time. This project was able to offer positive engagement through the arts and will now continue to serve its purpose by informing new consumers about the unit and what it has to offer, helping them feel more at ease in their surroundings.”*

ROOM19 will be installed in each bedroom and meeting room in the unit during the last week of June, making this tool easily accessible and available to staff and consumers any time. The film can be viewed online at <http://www.countryarts.org.au/news/room19/>.

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