




Sharing the Wisdom of Our Elders

Glenny Naden, a Kabi Kabi, Wakka Wakka,
Koa and Wiradjuri woman

"This painting represents the themes of Culture and Dreamtime, Spirituality, Sacred Grounds, Sharing the Wisdom of our Elders, and the effects of dementia on our ageing Indigenous population."

See opposite page for the full description.





“The **red section** at the top of the painting represents our Culture and Dreamtime, depicting the lands and rivers of our Aboriginal nations, as well as the importance of our people being skilled in reading the seasons by the sun, moon and stars. The Dreaming paths of our people encompasses the dreams of our people and the way that land and water was essential to their way of life and survival. The central meeting place represents our people for all time, past, present and future.

The red background represents the earth and the excitement, passion and pride we feel for our Land. It encompasses strength, power, and determination. These characteristics are symbolic of our People’s fortitude and confirms the incredible resilience and cultural pride that we have inherited from our Elders, and indeed our Ancestors.

The **green section** of the painting represents the Spirituality of our people. This is defined as being at the core of our being, our Identity. The symbolic Tree of Life with its root systems portrays the aspects of a solid foundation, leading to spiritual sustenance in our relationships with one another and the surrounding environment. The green background characterises the colour of life, renewal, growth, and environmental harmony. This serves to remind us of the different stages in our lives and the nurturing and growth needed to survive and pass on our cultural knowledge.

In the **yellow section** of the painting, we acknowledge our Sacred Grounds. These are special places of significance for conducting our traditions and ceremonies.

The yellow background conveys enlightenment, remembrance, intellect and honour and are characteristics that are evocative of the activities associated with our traditional and sacred grounds, and the significant roles of Elders in these practices.

The **purple section** of the painting represents the Sharing of Wisdom by our Elders. The colour purple is a rare occurring colour in nature and is sometimes seen as having sacred meaning. The central symbol is a meeting place where knowledge is given, which then extends out to other members of the community.

The purple background is associated with royalty, wisdom, wealth, dignity, devotion, peace, mystery and pride. These traits are the very things that endear our Elders to us and helps us to give them the esteemed acknowledgement, respect and admiration that is deserving of them.

The **blue section** of the Painting represents how dementia has affected our Elders and thus our communities. The central symbol depicts the person with dementia, surrounded by another person who is administering love, comfort and support in this vulnerable period of life. The other symbols, depicted by a question mark and jigsaw puzzle, indicates the state of mind that is so prevalent in people with dementia.

The blue background symbolises trust, wisdom, confidence, intelligence and is beneficial to the mind and metabolism and causes a calming effect. It is anticipated that through further professional research and practice, a better quality of life and eventual cure for dementia will be found.

At the centre of the whole of the painting is the brain, whose primary function includes relaying information between itself and the body. It is central to who we are, where our place is, and where our destiny lies.”