

# Media Release



For Immediate Release  
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## **ADULTS WITH DEMENTIA & DISABILITIES PRODUCE SHOW STOPPERS**

Local Canberran artists who have dementia or disabilities have swept this years art prizes at The Royal Canberra Show.

Many of the winning artists were entrants from the Carers ACT group which submitted artworks including acrylic paintings, textiles and papier-mâché.

This is the first time Carers ACT clients have submitted work to the Show, the seven ribbons and six high commendations achieved is an exciting first time result.

"I think that what all of these ribbons and high commendations demonstrate is that people with dementia or disabilities can still make a valuable community contribution, such as these award-winning works of art." said Carers ACT Care Facilities Manager Pauline Dunk said.

All the entrants in this year's Carers ACT group are regular guests of either 'The Cottage' which provides care for people with Dementia, or 'Fraser House' which provides care for adults with disability.

Guests from The Cottage submitted canvas acrylic paintings, with three winning places and three earning high commendations. Guests from Fraser House submitted five woven textile pieces three earning a place and one earning a high commendation. Fraser House guests also submitted various papier-mâché bowls gaining one place and two high commendations.

"Art and craft are a huge part of our programs for guests at both The Cottage and Fraser House. Having these items on display at the Canberra Show and winning awards gives our guests and their family Carers a real sense of pride and purpose."

The Cottage provides day and overnight care for adults with a dementia and changed behaviour in a home like environment, to give their family Carers a break from caring so that they can work, go shopping or simply enjoy a day off.

Fraser House provides day and overnight care for adults with a disability in a home like environment to give their mature aged parents a break to enjoy what should be their retirement years.

Both are operated and managed by Carers ACT and have a strong focus on assisting guests with independent living skills, socialising and enjoying hobbies.

The Deakin Cottage is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing. Fraser House is funded by the Australian Government of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and the ACT Government Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services.

**ENDS**

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**Photo and Interview Opportunities can be arranged until 5pm Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> February, when the show ends.**

