

Art, Nature and Dementia: A relational sensory experience

Understanding Participatory Arts Among Persons Living With Dementia: A Case Study Of The Garden Trolley Program

Funmi Akindejoye¹, Azam Bazooband¹, Leigh Tesch², Duncan Sinclair¹, Bec Stevens³ and Pauline Marsh¹

¹Wicking Dementia Research and Education Centre, University of Tasmania, ²Menzies Institute for Medical Research University of Tasmania, ³Inscape Tasmania, Tasmania Australia



Garden trolley program is an indoor **mobile garden** within an inpatient facility. Delivered by an artist, utilising plants, **artmaking** together with a garden trolley for **patient's wellbeing**.

Findings

Novelty & curiosity

"The art facilitator uses a lot of natural materials....she brings things from her garden, things that are sort of seasonal. I think those things are really enticing, some of it novel and some of it familiar"

Relational facilitation

"The activities serve as a conduit to build relationship with people or a person. Often, we find that participants remember our previous visits because it connected deeply with them"

Sensory Exploration

"The art process goes beyond just looking at peaches in a static way....patients interact with the plants as they smell them or feel the roughness of a gum nut"

Bringing outside in

"The garden trolley has really been instrumental and sort of endearing people, connecting patients into the land and the environment"

Tenderness

"We see the patients, they are often very caring about one another too, they want to cheer each other up, and so they will use the garden trolley to try to cheer up their neighbour"



In conclusion this case study suggests that nature-based art and relationality drives nature connection through sensory interaction

Let's connect, scan here

