

## MATERIAL LEGACIES, IN THE LANDSCAPE OF THE LOST, 2017

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10.1136/bmjspcare-2018-hospiceabs.57

An exhibition to engage the local community and enable conversations about death and dying.

### **Background:**

The exhibition was the final re-staging of the artworks generated during a collaborative five-year PhD research project between the hospice, three bereaved stakeholders and designer, Dr. Stacey Pitsillides. The exhibition ran for two weeks in a local arts venue and provided research collaborators with the opportunity to become local ambassadors. Throughout the exhibition the hospice ran events including an outpatient centre 'taster day', a creative therapies education day and a life drawing class.

### **Aims:**

To utilise the exhibition of artworks created by three bereaved women as a means of engaging the local community in discussions around death, dying and bereavement, and to raise awareness and visibility of hospice services.

Methods: To install the exhibition in an easy-to-reach and accessible venue located on the high street of the local hospice town. To deliver events to engage the community and increase understanding of hospice services.

### **Results:**

Results gathered from 21 visitor feedback forms:

- 19 people said that after visiting the exhibition they would feel more inclined to access hospice support services.
- On a scale of 1 –10 (1 being not at all – 10 being very well), 17 people scored 8+ in how important it is to talk about death and dying in the local community.
- Words captured describing the exhibition: 'inspiring, amazing, interesting, enlightening, necessary, thought provoking, clever, innovative, refreshing, insightful, challenging, sincere'

In addition 40 people attended the 'taster day' and 13 allied health professionals attended the creative therapies education day.

### **Conclusion:**

The arts are a powerful vehicle to engage communities in difficult and challenging conversations about death and dying and taking services off-site can help to raise awareness and increase understanding of hospice services.