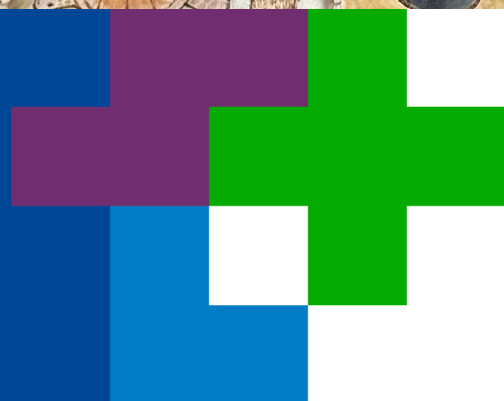




# Baagon Walert Walert



**'Coming together with possum skin'**



the royal victorian  
eye and ear  
hospital

**Proudly supported by  
WCMICS**

Workshops facilitated by Aunty Gina Bundle OAM







## Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Staff and Patients



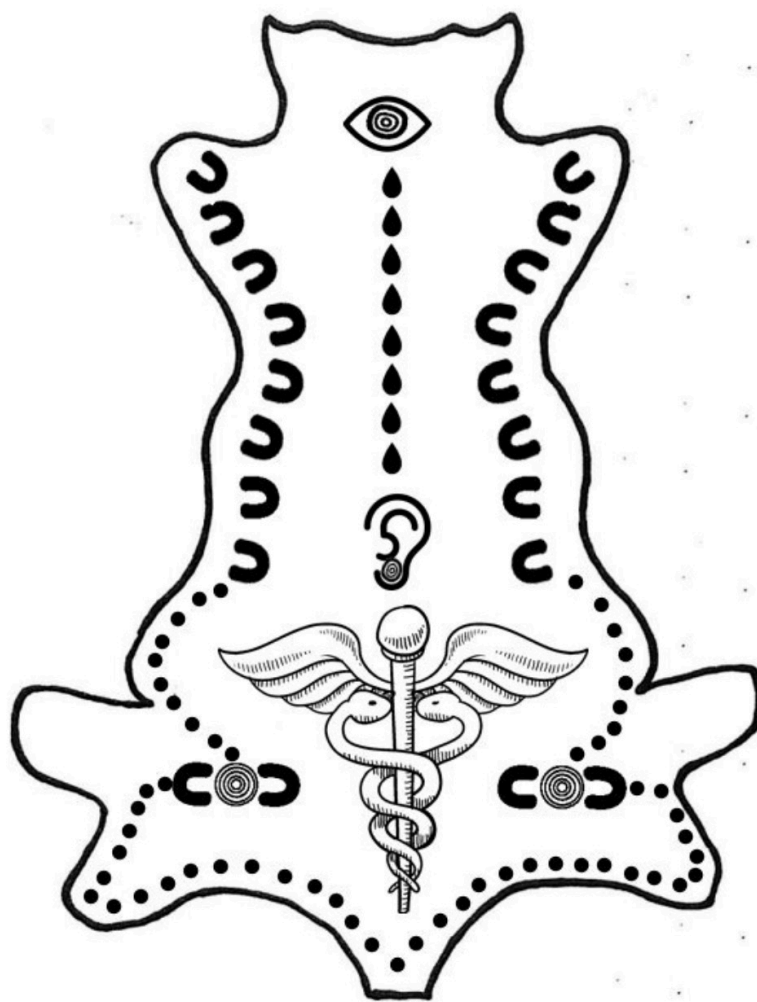
### Story

The possum skin cloak features contributions from our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff and patients.

- **Mannagum leaf and flag hearts:** Symbolise welcoming Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to the Eye and Ear Hospital.
- **Parliament bench by Aunty Margaret Martino:** The design depicts Parliament and the under-representation of Aboriginal people, in particular the front bench.
- **Dingo by Peter Waples-Crowe, regular patient and multidisciplinary artist:** The dingo is a symbol featured in his artwork representing a marginalised native animal that in most parts of Australia is not protected, so it's become a queer emblem of sorts.
- **Animal totems representing our staff include:**
  - Pelican
  - Long-neck turtle
  - Platypus
  - Sea turtle
  - Crow
  - Yellow-crested cockatoo



## Quality and Safety

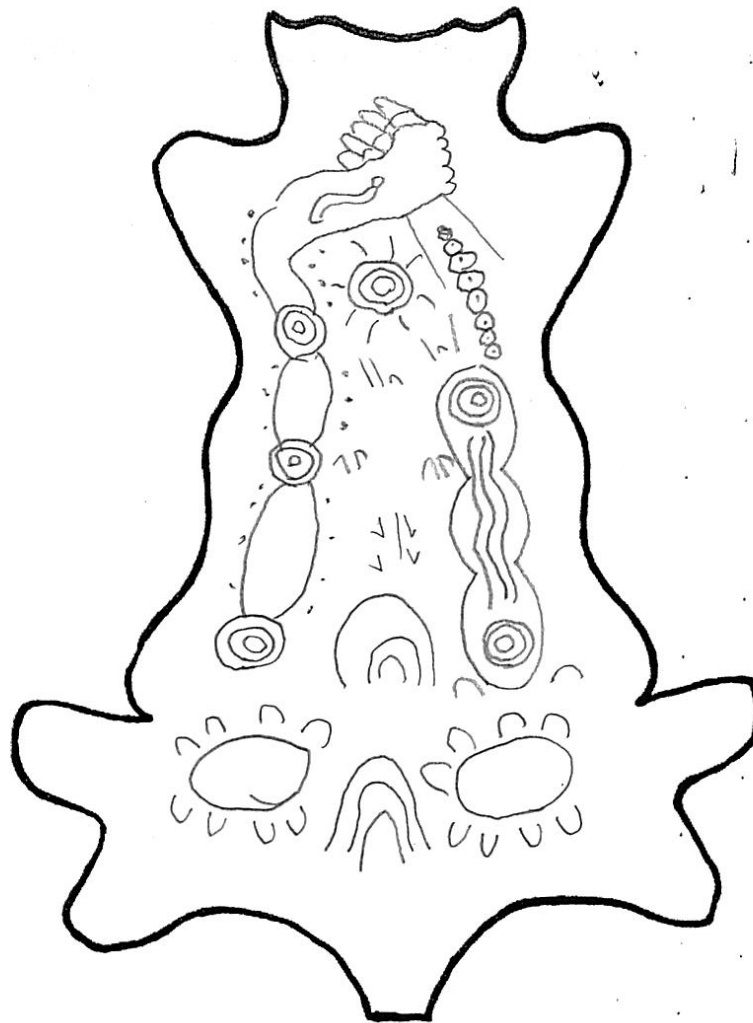


## Story

- Eye and Ear with meeting symbol inside to represent the hospital.
- Used the idea of tears from eyes as a walking track between the eye and ear to showcase the linkage of specialities in our hospital.
- The edging of 'person' imagery rather than man/woman for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.
- Dotted lines connecting to 'people sitting' imagery referencing the patients journey to receiving care at our hospital.
- Hippocratic Oath symbol to indicate ethics of medicine.



## Facilities and Engineering



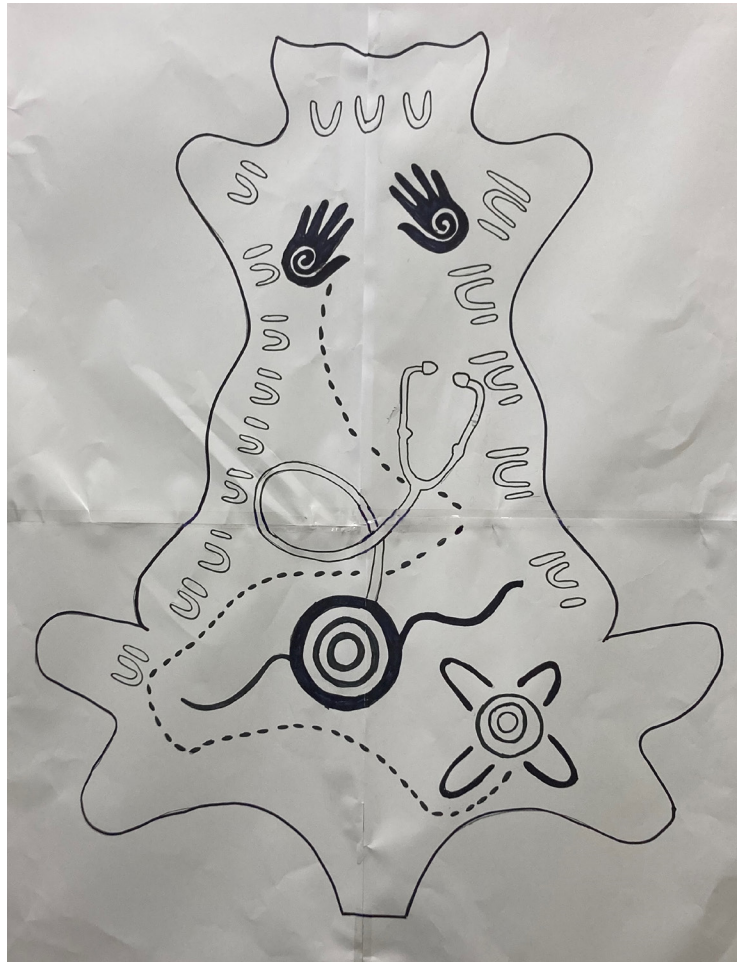
### Story

The design represents two different communities living on different sides of the mountains and coming together at a meeting place , sharing snake , witchetty grubs, and then shaking hands in friendship.

The community on the left are walking through bushland towards the other walking alongside the river.



## Nursing Education



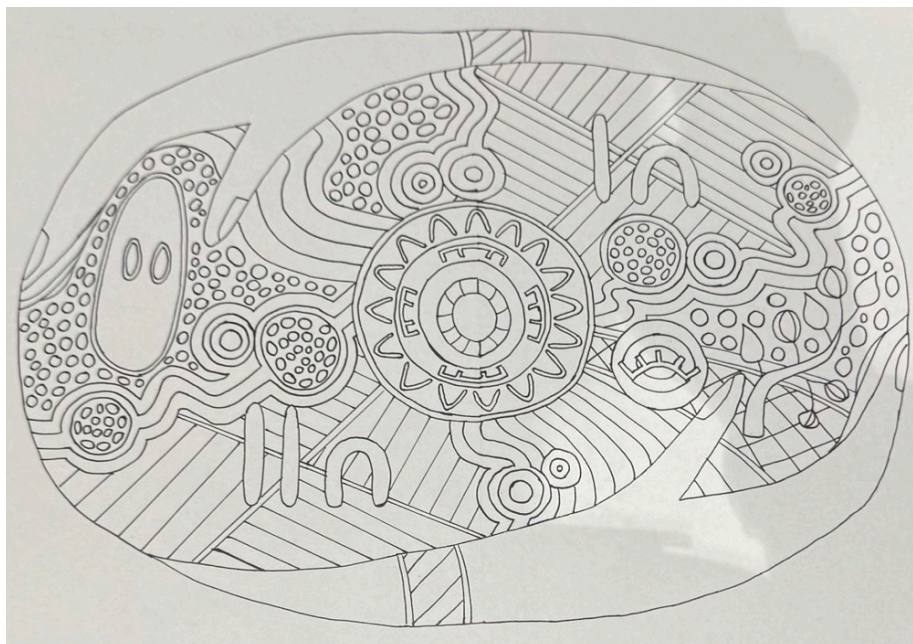
### Story

The central design is around the Stethoscope which is such a traditional Western sign of Medicine and Healing and we have made the Bell/diaphragm of the Stethoscope the meeting place with journey line which are the old and new cultures joining together.

Our thought about Reconciliation is that it doesn't matter what path you are walking, we are here to help you and assist on your Education journey in our Hospital and we have tried to indicate this with the men/women and person symbols around the borders also.



## Emergency Department



### Story

The story behind the design from the emergency department team aims to represent the purpose behind its operation, and in recognition of reconciliation day.

When viewed from afar, the design appears in the shape of an eye. The primary function of the eyeball is to achieve vision and interpret the environment in our world. Similarly, in recognition of reconciliation day, the eyeball symbolizes a vision of the past, present, and future. In addition, the eye represents the RVEEH primary healthcare service delivery in managing and restoring the eye health of the public community.

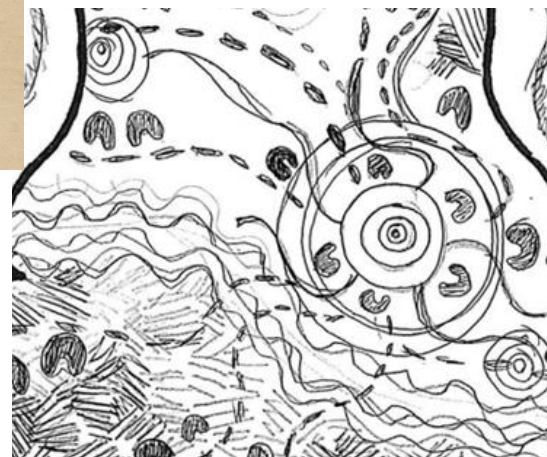
The hands are embraced to symbolize friendship with the Aboriginal community. It depicts the embracement and restoration of friendship among people from diverse ethnic communities to work harmoniously with the Aboriginal communities in the future. It is also a reflection on the history of Australia's Indigenous and Aboriginal people and to promote the public community's respect and awareness on reconciliation day.

The shapes used within the iris are based on Aboriginal symbols that reflect a sitting or gathering place for people. The symbols consist of possum prints and people sitting within the iris, depicting the emergency department. It is a place for patients and clinicians to share information about presented conditions and available treatments. Similarly, the RVEEH emergency department is a place that provides eye health care services to patients who seek them. And where clinicians, nurses, clerical, and domestic workers work in collaboration to integrate evidence-based ophthalmic and emergency care.

The eucalyptus plant piece represents foods and medicines, reflecting the RVEEH's use of pharmacology in treating eye, ear, nose, and throat conditions. Whereas the shield symbolizes the RVEEH emergency department as a public servant and offers protection to the public community. The circles and the shape of the lines used are associated with Aboriginal symbols, and the concept is designed to interpret patients' healthcare experience occurring throughout their care journey.



## Ambulatory Services, Patient Services and Access



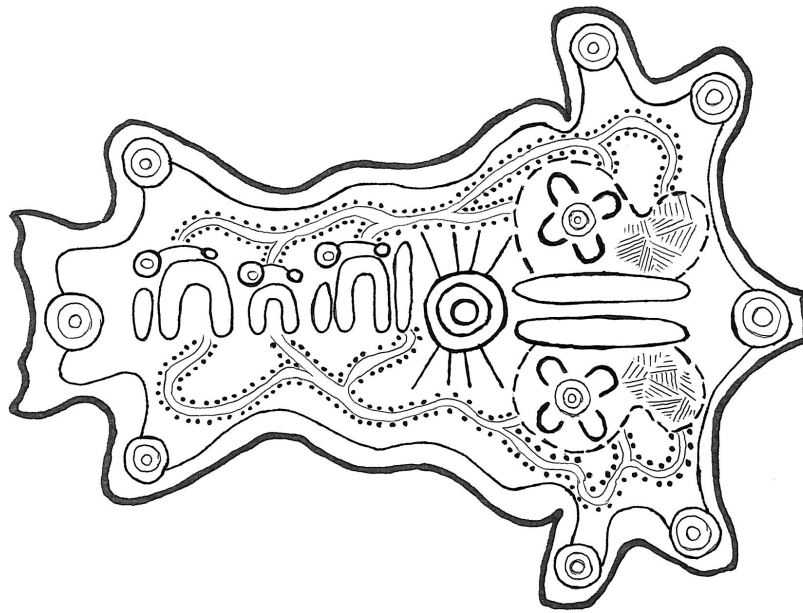
### Story

This pelt features 3 designs that represent patient access and the referral pathway to the Eye and Ear's specialist clinics and services.

Warranga Ba Djarra (pictured left) represents the journey of hearing and seeing - both literally, through the hospital's core specialties, and symbolically, as an invitation to listen deeply, learn respectfully, and walk forward in reconciliation together.



# Audiology, Speech Pathology and Cochlear Implant Clinic



## Story

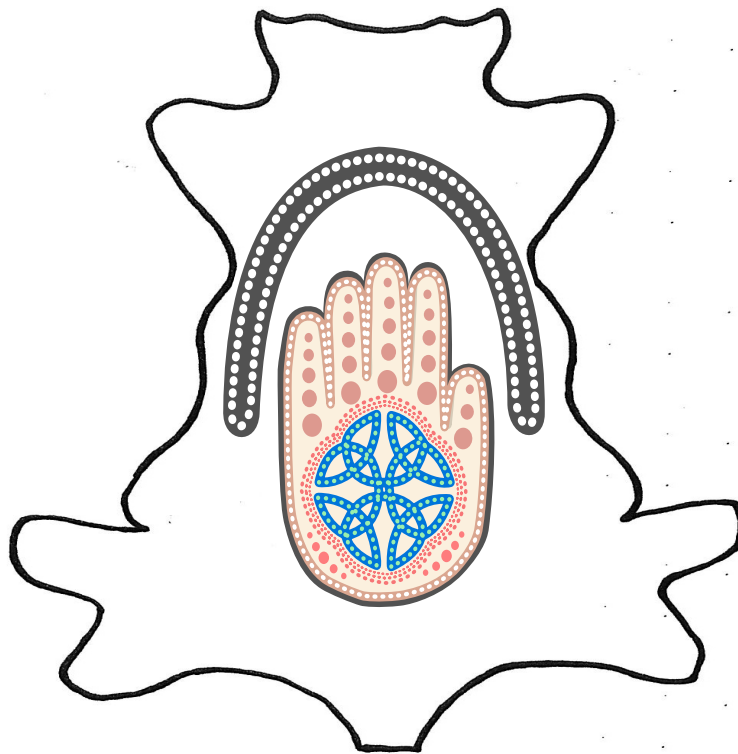
Created by Ashleigh Dyson (Aud), Stephanie Houston (Aud), Lucy Bath (Speech Path), Meriana Bishop (Aud) and Caitlin Houston (AHA, CIC)

### Symbols:

- The butterfly: a symbol of the deaf community
- Clap sticks: used in audiological testing
- Meeting place: the Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital and the various ear clinics
- Yarning circle: symbolic of the communication between patients and clinicians, the interdisciplinary discussions between clinicians, and the goal of our clinics to provide our patients with stronger communication through improved hearing
- Country: symbolic of the outreach work that the general audiology team do on country and the VCIP (Victorian Cochlear Implant Program) partner clinics which are located all across Victoria
- Journey line with meeting place: the journey that our patients take towards better hearing health
- Walking track: symbolic of the work of our physios with balance patient and the connection between clinics on separate floors of the hospital
- Man, woman and child: our patients cover people from all walks of life, from babies through to the elders of our communities
- The Spirit of Sound: this is a representation of sound created by indigenous artist Davinder Hart in collaboration with Hearing Australia in the book 'The Spirit of Sound'. This represents the transmission of knowledge, information, history and culture between people, including our clinicians, patients, and the wider community, and country. It is also symbolic of the aims of our clinics to improve hearing health, and our speech pathologists work with our voice patients
- Cochlear implant: inclusion of this symbol reflects the technology that the CIC can offer patients to improve their hearing, and thus their ability to connect with others.



## Surgical Services



### Story

The Surgical Services design symbolises the following:

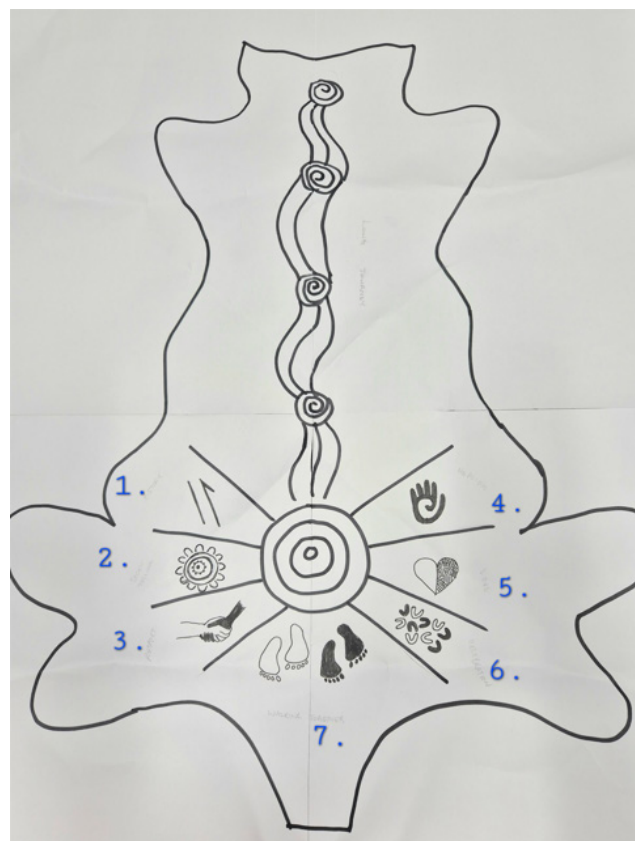
- **The Person (u shape):** will be the overarching symbol – symbolising: treating the whole of person.
- Sitting within the Person symbol will be **The Hand:** symbolising the support we provide to patients and staff, with the 5 digits of the hand representing the Eye and Ear Hospital's Mission to improve health and wellbeing outcomes through excellence in:

Clinical Care, Teaching, Education, Research, Innovation

- Sitting within the Hand symbol will be **The Celtic Knot:** consisting of a single thread. This thread symbolises the path of life along which, as in a labyrinth, a person passes to get to the centre. The centre of the knot is nothing but the highest degree of spirituality. The interweaving of the lines of the Celtic circle means neither beginning nor end, the continuity of eternal love and the binding together, or the interweaving of two souls or spirits. The circles represent; Natural, Energy, Emotional, and Spiritual healing.



## Finance



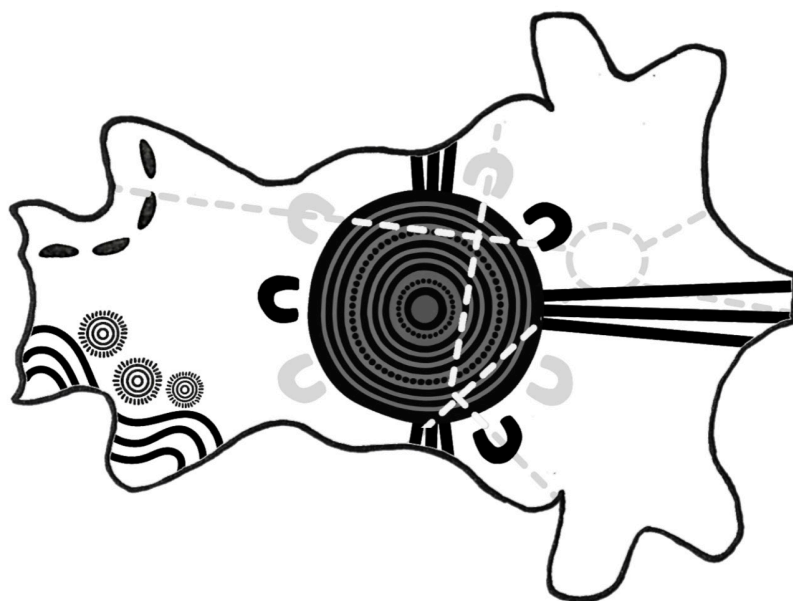
## Story

The overwhelming feedback from the finance team was that reconciliation was about a journey of cultures coming together to listen, respect, heal and move forward together. Starting from the top the first symbol represents the long journey we've been on towards reconciliation. When we come to the end of the long journey we arrive at a meeting place. Within the meeting place there are symbols representing different elements of reconciliation.

1. History - The battles, hurt and discord that has occurred along the journey.
2. Yarning circle - A place of story telling and listening.
3. Respect - Open minds and hearts, listening with empathy and coming to an understanding with respect of one another.
4. Healing - The healing of trauma from our past
5. Love - Coming together and love flowing for our healed country and people.
6. People dancing - When we can all come together and celebrate as a reconciled nation. One people of Australia.
7. Walking together into the future of our country.



## Parkville Precinct



### Story

The parkville precinct is situated on the traditional lands of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people of the Kulin Nation. Before European settlement, this area was characterised by open woodlands, grasslands and wetlands, serving as a vital meeting place for social, education, and cultural activities. Ref: [www.participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au](http://www.participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au)

This artwork is a conceptual depiction of Parkville, it honours the enduring presence of Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people on this land and draws a line of continuity from pre-colonial life to the present day. Each symbol tells a layered story. Dark lines and shapes represent the past, light lines and shapes represent the present - the inverting of colours provides a combined view of stories.

**Meeting Places: Past and Present** - At the centre of the piece is a main circle motif, traditionally representing significant gathering places or waterholes. In this context, it holds a double meaning: Historically, it reflects sites of community, ceremony and sustenance, where Aboriginal people gathered for thousands of years. Today, this same location houses Parkville's major hospitals, which have become modern-day meeting places - where people still come together to share knowledge, stories and healing. This duality is intentional, illustrating how the land's purpose remains similar despite changes in infrastructure.

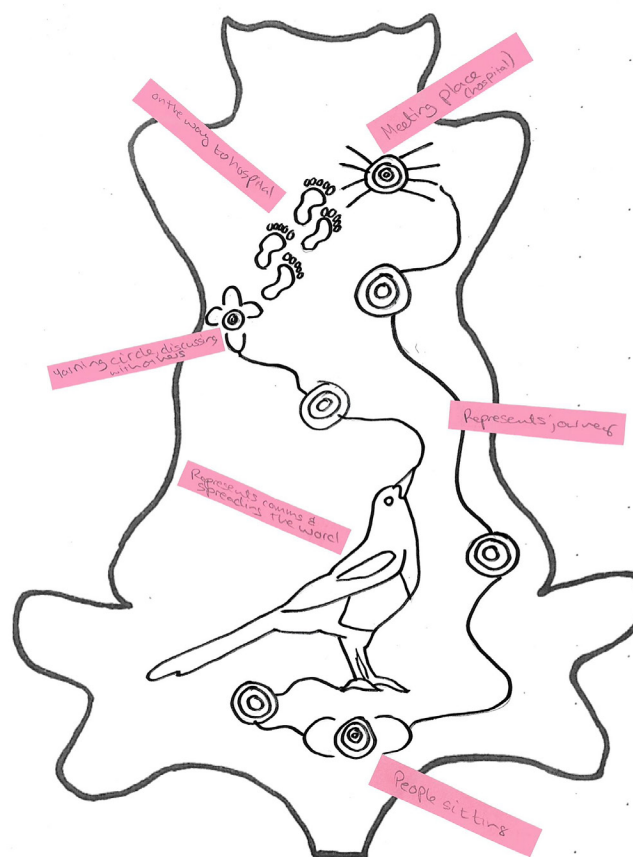
**Lines and Tracks: Connection and Continuity** - The dark lines represent songlines and pathways, just as modern-day roads and train lines bring people together from all directions into Parkville. The light dotted lines represent these modern day travel paths and mimic the roads surrounding the precinct. U-shaped symbols depict people, showing Parkville as a place of coming together, both then and now. The wavy lines to the bottom left signify a watercourse, a reference to Merri Creek. The plants symbolise the rich life and storytelling embedding in the environment - footprints of agriculture that once filled the area.

**Style and Tone** - It invites viewers to see layers of time simultaneously with contrast colours - pre-colonial, colonial, and now - coexisting on the same land. Aboriginal land.

**Reconciliation through Story and Space** - This artwork becomes a visual metaphor for reconciliation: the land has changed, but the spirit of gathering, care, and learning endures. It recognises the deep time knowledge of First Peoples while reflecting on how these same spaces can continue to honour that legacy - through truth, healing and respect. By telling this story in the style of Aboriginal art, the piece is intended to continue cultural narrative of place. It affirms that First Nations history, knowledge and connection to Country remain central, and that acknowledging both past and present in this way is itself an act of truth-telling and honouring.



## Marketing and Communications



### Story

Our design features a magpie, a bird you see often around the hospital. Magpie's are a native bird to Australia with a beautiful and iconic voice. When walking about you can always hear a magpie cooing in the distance somewhere, speaking to its neighbours or family. It is a lovely sound that is synonymous with Australia and elicits happiness.

In Australian Aboriginal culture, magpies symbolise resilience, adaptability, strength, and survival. They are revered for their cleverness and resourcefulness in Aboriginal Dreamtime stories.

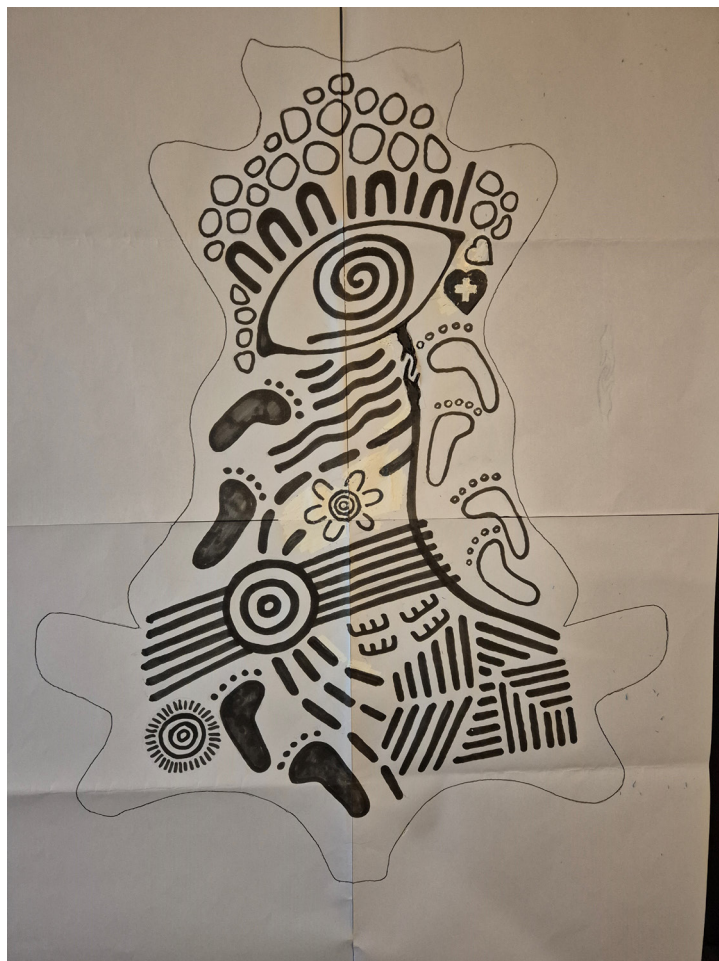
The magpie represents the hospital's voice and our patient's voice, talking about our services through their positive experiences. The magpie communicates to others, with the word spreading and encouraging more people to come to our hospital (meeting place). After their visit here, they continue on their eye health journey before chatting to someone who encourages them to share their story, thus both completing the circle and starting to spread the word all over again.

We know the word of community is very strong in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture, and word of mouth above all else. We thought the magpie was a perfect animal to represent this.

Reconciliation to us means continuing to communicate their stories to community, encouraging others to talk to their community about their experiences. In turn, this helps to build respect and trust within the community to care for them with their hearing and vision needs.



## Consumer Advisor and Volunteers



### Story

The indigenous spiritual and physical connection with country and the patient journey have been partnered alongside with non-indigenous people to a place of healing where they are greeted equally with a warm and kind reception, care, and attention to recovery.

Traditional elements such as tracks, footprints, resting place, yarning place, flowing water, woman, man, non-binary, and healing stones have combined with eye and ear motifs, hospital and help symbols, and a connecting path encompassing all.



## Mirring Ba Wirring Team



### Story

The Mirring ba Wirring design depicts the cultural, social and emotional support the Aboriginal Health Liaison Officers (AHLO's) provide to ensure Aboriginal patients receive culturally appropriate care at the Eye and Ear hospital.

Central to the design is the large ear and eye shapes that depict the Eye and Ear hospital.

Ear shape – represents the Ear, Nose and Throat services that community access. It also signifies the listening, learning and sharing of cultural knowledge through ongoing staff education to advance reconciliation.

Inside the ear are two yarning circles, one circle represents the Eye and Ear hospital and the other is the Aboriginal community – the circles are joined via journey lines and outlined with U-shapes, representing people, and symbolising the hospitals engagement with community both within the hospital and via outreach clinical services. The connection also signifies the Eye and Ears strong commitment to yarning as it provides an opportunity to engage. The lines beaming from the central Eyes and Ear show how we connect beyond the hospital to provide a holistic treatment pathway for patients.

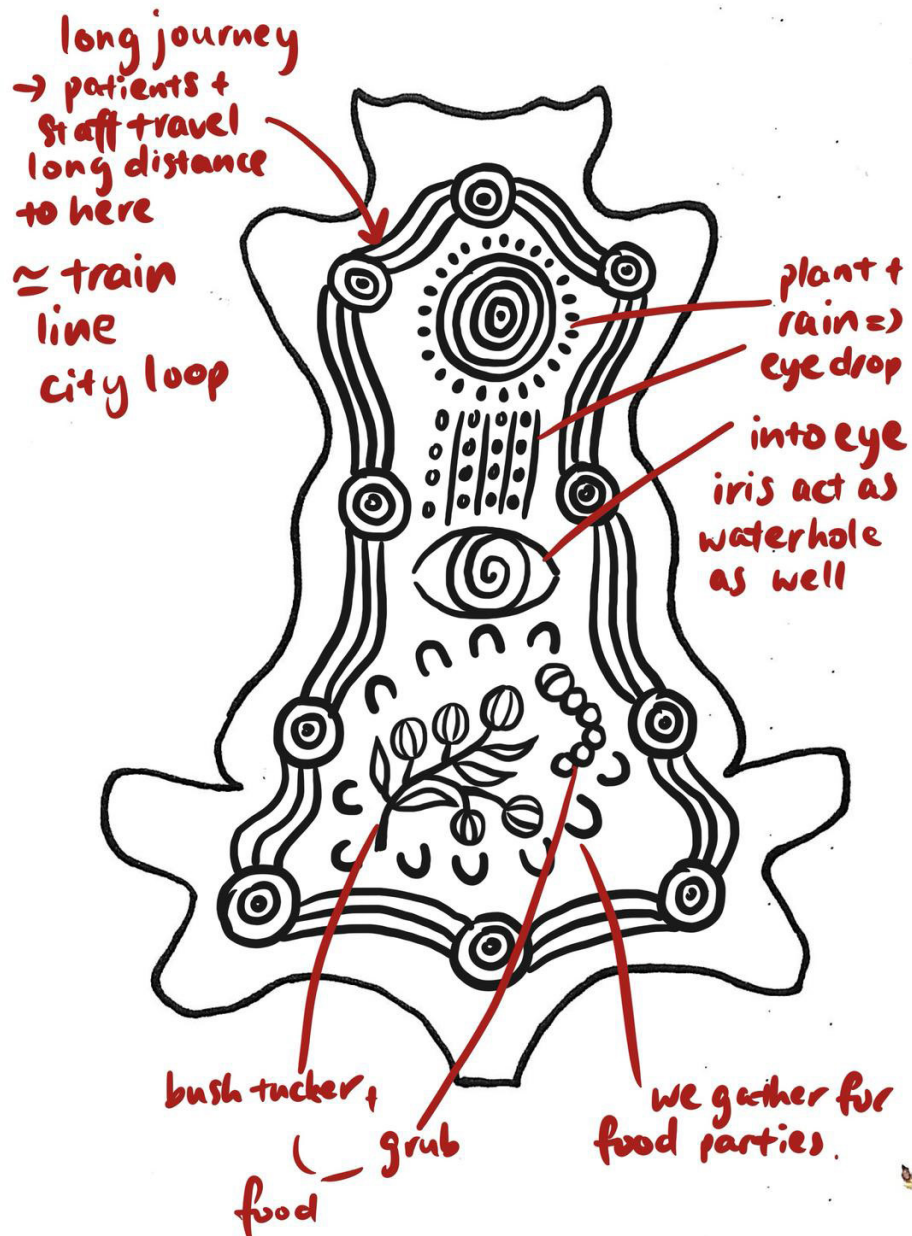
Eye shapes – circular design inside the eye symbolises AHLOs supporting patients when accessing services at the hospital

Journey Lines / meeting places - frame the central design and show the distance and pathways Aboriginal patients travel to access specialised treatment.



## Pharmacy

### Story





## People and Culture



### Story

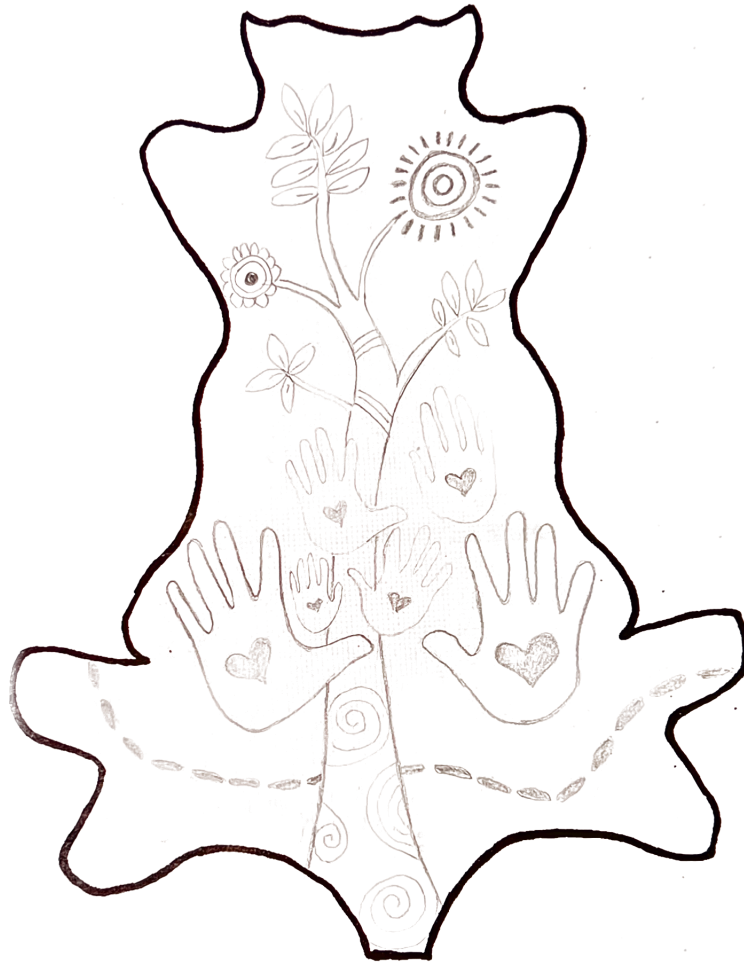
This design speaks to connection, protection and shared care. The two central figures represent the People and Culture team's role in walking alongside both staff, patients and our wider community with empathy and respect. One figure supporting the other reflects how we stand together through challenge, growth and healing.

The surrounding hands symbolise the many parts of our hospital including clinical and non-clinical teams, leadership, volunteers, patients and families, all working together to create a safe and inclusive space for everyone.

Through this design, we aim to honour the strength and resilience of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and reaffirm our shared commitment to reconciliation, respect and collective care.



## Philanthropy and Fundraising

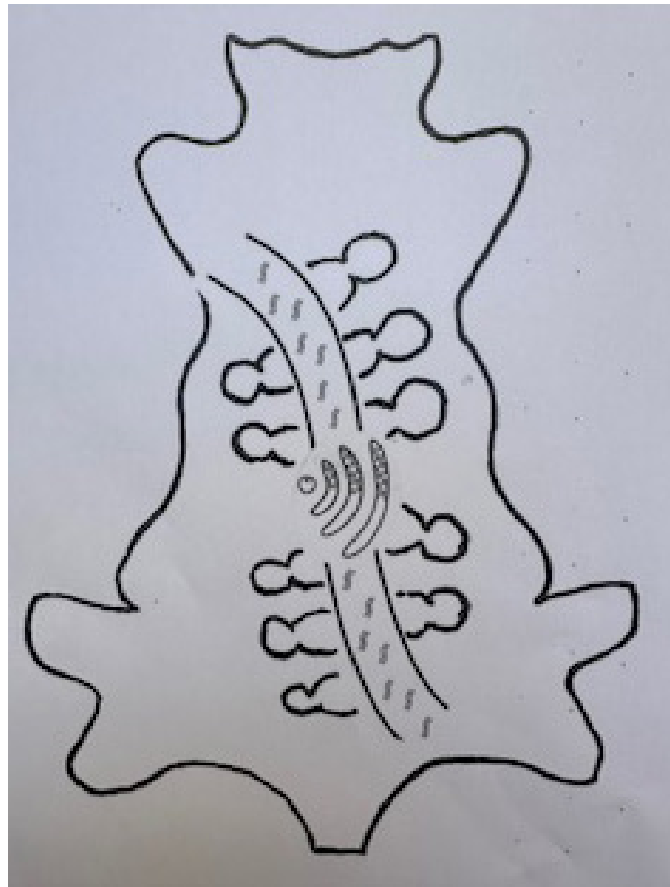


### Story

Our design represents the diversity of the hospital's donors and supporters, who come from all walks of life and unite to support the hospital and secure its future by donating much-needed funds. The journey lines represent the journey our donor often make from patients to donors and then sometimes on to be volunteers and/or bequestors. The hands represent the 'helping hand' that people provide to the hospital by being donors. The tree represents the life and energy that is created by the hospital's donors and supporters all coming together to support projects and initiatives including the recent scholarship for an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander medical student to complete an ophthalmology placement at the hospital.



## ICT

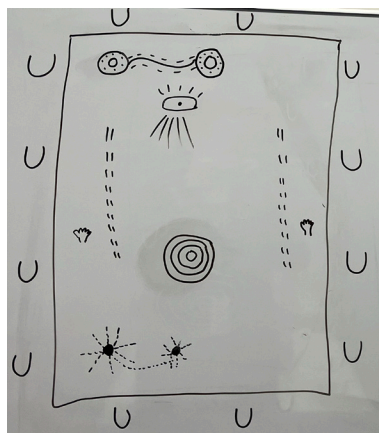


### Story

The image shows two groups walking their own journeys on either side of the water. It highlights the role technology can play in aiding communication and understanding, symbolised by the 'wifi bridge' spanning the water. The bridge helps the groups interact and overcome barriers.



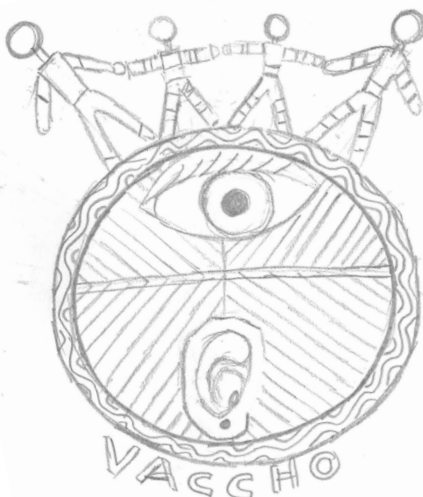
## Board and Executive



### Story

- Journey lines: representing knowledge passed from one place to another
- Eye - light ray
- U shapes: collaboration between healthcare workers, patients and community
- Tracks and handprints: individuals receiving care
- Ear: concentric circles, sound waves
- Stars: representing knowledge, thinking, searching, research.

## VACCHO



### Story

The **Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation's (VACCHO)** design features eye and ear symbols to represent the hospital and the people around the design are a mix of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people and non – Indigenous people supporting the community to access support.



## VAHS and E+E



### Story

The **Victorian Aboriginal Health Service (VAHS)** and the Eye and Ear logo's represent the strong partnership between organisations and the shared commitment to Closing the Health Gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Australians with the establishment of the Healthy Ears Clinic for children aged between 0-21 and an Ophthalmology Clinic for adults and children.

## BDAC

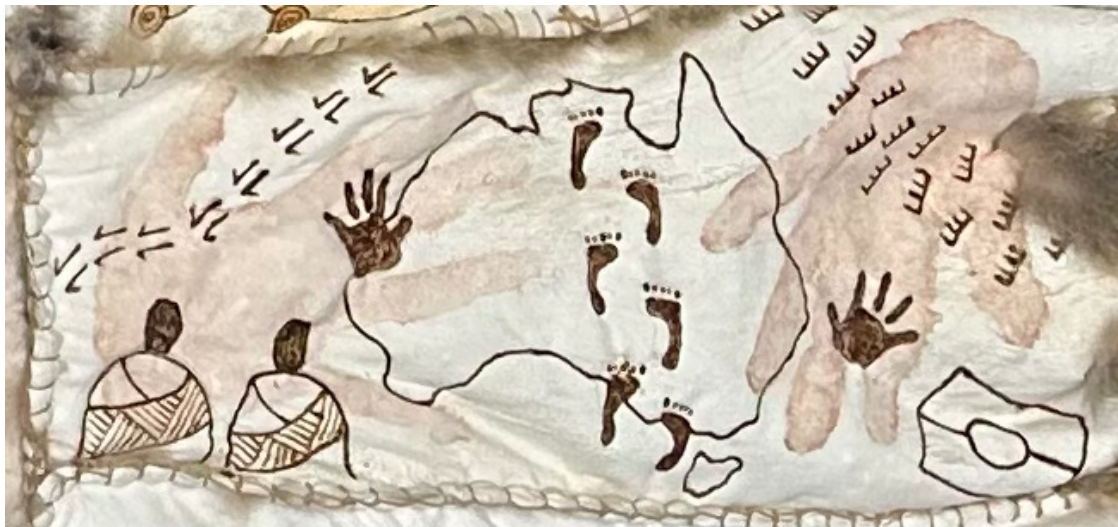


### Story

The **Bendigo and District Aboriginal Co-operative (BDAC)** logo represents the Eye and Ear's strong partnership with BDAC with the implementation of audiology screening and assessment services.



## Culture, Community, Country



### Story

This pelt represents Aboriginal land, culture and history acknowledging over 65,000 years of harmonious existence on traditional Country. It features Elders in possum skin cloaks, black footprints representing Aboriginal people, kangaroo tracks and possum tracks overlaid on ochre handprints, reflective of traditional cave markings and to reflect the 5 dimensions of reconciliation: historical acceptance, race relations, equality and equity, institutional integrity and unity. Smaller handprints represent our children and future generations and the continuation of culture.