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Plenty Road Bundoora 3083  
Telephone 4673211

School of Art and Design

27 September 1978

The President  
Board of Management  
Collingwood Community Health Centre  
229 Hoddle Street  
COLLINGWOOD, 3066

Dear Sir

We are seeking your approval of plans to paint a mural on the Hoddle Street wall of the Collingwood Community Health Centre. As you are probably aware, a design for this project has been completed.

During 1977 a group of women - some artists, who have had previous experience in mural work, some art students from Preston Institute of Technology and some who are local residents - came together with the idea of creating a mural to depict the experiences of living in the inner suburbs. After eighteen months of voluntary work, which involved work collecting ideas and information, we developed this final design. This is, in itself, an important precedent in community art work in Australia.

Initial discussions were held with members of the Collingwood community at Singletons and at the Community Flat in Palmer Street. People spoke about their environment and identified what they considered important to be included in a mural painting.

These suggestions have been combined in our design to reflect the needs and aspirations of the community. The design is arranged in a narrative sequence. Beginning with the present situation it depicts the difficulties facing people living in an inner suburban working-class area. It represents the workplace, factory conditions, unemployment and isolation. The mural also deals with the situation of women and of the effects of advertising.

The second part of the mural goes on to show positive areas of community health work, such as the role of district nursing. The people are shown trying to better their conditions, e.g. in the need for child care, factory creches and free health care.

Throughout the mural there is a recognition of the multi-cultural composition of Collingwood and the final image is a celebration of these different cultural groups.

The initial colour design was displayed in the Health Centre for two weeks with a questionnaire attached, seeking a response from community members. The mural group reviewed the responses and made appropriate alterations to the design.

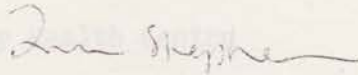
The completed design, now hanging at the Health Centre, was presented to a lunchtime group at the Community Flat in Palmer Street. The response here was most positive.

We are most interested in having members of the community working with us in the execution of the mural. We see it as very important to involve the community in all aspects of production. The mural will be produced according to a structured work programme, over a period of three months.

We see the mural providing an accessible cultural focus and expression for different sections of the Collingwood community.

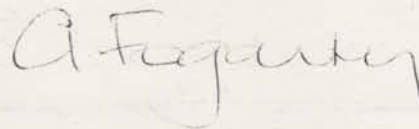
Yours sincerely

ANN STEPHEN



ANN FOGARTY

for  
The Mural Group



Ref 3924

AS/jaf



# COLLINGWOOD COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE

Cnr. HODDLE & SACKVILLE STS.,  
COLLINGWOOD, 3066  
TELEPHONE: 419 6155

1st December, 1978.

Miss A. Stephen,  
Department of Structure/Arts Theory,  
Preston Institute of Technology,  
Plenty Road,  
Bundoora, Vic. 3083.

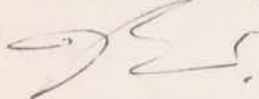
Dear Miss Stephen,

I have been requested by the Committee of Management to write and advise you of the results of the Committee of Management's meeting on 28th November. The Committee debated for a very long time on the future of the mural, and from this discussion and reports from members of the Staff Co-ordination Committee who were present at the time it has become obvious that there is a deep division within the Centre of opinions about the mural. The centre is undergoing a significant change in its internal relationships at the present time, and everyone is concerned *about* the divisions that have arisen over this issue. The Committee wishes to do everything it can to promote the new relationships that are developing amongst members of the Centre, and as a result believes that this is not the time to proceed with the mural.

This decision was taken only after a great deal of discussion and after hearing a number of opinions for and against the painting. It is rather less a criticism of the painting and rather more a comment on the way we within the Centre view each other and relationships we are attempting to build amongst the team of people here that we should find the mural as divisive an issue as it has become.

I think many of us regret that it was to come to the for at this particular time, especially in view of the amount of work your group has put in on the design.

Yours faithfully,



J. Goode,  
Manager.