

ABOUT THE ART – THE GIFT OF HEALING

BY DIXON PATTEN (a proud *Gunnai, Yorta Yorta, Gunditjmara, Dhudhuroa man with bloodlines from Wemba Wemba, Barapa Barapa, Djab Wurrung, Wiradjuri, Yuin, Wodi Wodi, Wolgal, Monaro*)

OUR HEALING EXPERIENCES CAN SOMETIMES FEEL ISOLATING AND LONELY. THIS ART REMINDS US THAT WE ARE PART OF A COMMUNITY WITH AN ABUNDANCE OF STRENGTH AND RESILIENCE. OUR JOURNEYS ARE GUIDED BY SUCH DEEP CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL CONNECTION TO OUR COUNTRY'S AND EACH OTHER. TAKING OWNERSHIP OF OUR HEALING IS A POWERFUL GIFT WE GIVE OURSELVES AND OUR COMMUNITIES.

THE OUTSTRETCHED HANDS REPRESENT REACHING FOR SUPPORT.

THE GUM LEAVES SYMBOLISE FEELING WELCOMED; ACKNOWLEDGING THIS PROCESS WAS WRAPPED IN CULTURAL SAFETY WITH COMMUNITY DRIVING THE CONVERSATIONS SURROUNDING CLINICAL TRIALS.

THE DIAMOND SHAPE PATTERNS PAY RESPECT TO OUR CULTURAL PRACTICES. WE ARE A CARVING CULTURE THESE MOTIFS ADORN OUR ARTEFACTS AND TOOLS AND HONOURS OUR CULTURAL STRENGTH AND CONTINUITY.

THE DIFFERENT COLOUR DIAMONDS REPRESENTS OUR DIVERSE COUNTRIES, ENVIRONMENTS, LORE, CULTURES, LANGUAGE, HISTORIES AND EXPERIENCES.

THE LARGE AND SMALL BODIES OF WATER REPRESENT FRESH AND SALT WATER COUNTRY AND SYMBOLISES HEALING AND NURTURING - ALONG THEM YOU CAN SEE THE HEALING STONES AND FOOTPRINTS; REPRESENTING OUR INDIVIDUAL AND COLLECTIVE HEALING JOURNEYS.

THE LARGE MEETING CIRCLES SYMBOLISE OUR EXTENDED COMMUNITIES, AND HEALTH INSTITUTIONS. THE SMALLER MEETING CIRCLES REPRESENT OUR INNER CIRCLE(S) - OUR FAMILY, KIN, FRIENDS AND THOSE WHO WE CAN TURN TO AND LEAN ON DURING THE CLINICAL TRIAL.