

Media Release

Dirty Laundry Day and Adderton Everywhere: highlighting justice and social issues in surprising public spaces

Today, as we mark the start of 16 days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, **Adderton: house & heart of mercy**, an initiative of the Sisters of Mercy Brisbane Congregation, continues a three-month activation of the **Dirty Laundry Day** project in surprising public spaces around Brisbane.

The **Dirty Laundry Day** Project, an exhibition of T-shirts painted by survivors with messages about domestic and family violence (DFV), has been seen in Brisbane for the first time in parks, shop-fronts and shopping centres raising awareness and starting conversations about this often hidden and taboo social issue.

The T-shirts were created by people who have experienced DFV as part of Social Futures Dirty Laundry Day project and continue to be exhibited in a vacant shopfront at 233 Given Tce, Paddington until 30 November highlighting the prevalence of DFV in our communities.

Adderton: house & heart of mercy's exhibitions of the **Dirty Laundry Day** installation are being seen for the first time in Brisbane through Adderton's external program Adderton Everywhere.

The Dirty Laundry Day project is a Social Futures initiative which has been held annually in the Northern Rivers Region of NSW for more than ten years. Social Futures CEO, Tony Davies, says creating the t-shirts gives a voice to people who often suffer in silence and allows them to air their dirty laundry without fear or shame.

"The messages painted onto the shirts tell the stories of women, young people and also men who have been brave enough to share their message, to raise awareness about violence and to let others know they are not alone.

"Abuse is something that thrives in secrecy. It isn't an easy topic to talk about, but it is a difficult conversation that we really need to have.

"Over the decade Social Futures has delivered the Dirty Laundry Day Project more than 500 t-shirts have been created and designed by someone wanting to tell their story. That is a lot of stories about violence and abuse and it is a far too common issue for communities across Australia," Mr Davies said.

Adderton's Creative Producer, Britt Casey said, "We hope that all of the **Dirty Laundry Day** exhibitions around Brisbane including Paddington will get people thinking about this issue, that they will start conversations and hopefully influence community attitudes and the ways people view, treat and talk about domestic violence.

"**Adderton** is continuing the work of the Sisters of Mercy, in supporting vulnerable women and highlighting responses to important social issues by activating **Dirty Laundry Day** exhibitions for the first time in Brisbane." Britt Casey said.

Adderton Curator, Linda Phillips said, "Adderton, like other galleries and cultural spaces, was forced to temporarily close due to the pandemic. Adderton opened late August 2019 with a unique offering for people to explore justice and social issues through contemporary art, workshops and events engaging in actions to help create change."

"As we are still a very new cultural destination, we needed to continue to grow our audience through 2020 and created an opportunity to take our program to a larger audience all over Brisbane through, Adderton Everywhere.

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“As a result *The Dirty Laundry Day* and QPASTT’s *Where the heart is...* exhibitions have been displayed in almost 20 locations all around Brisbane including inner and outer suburbs, parks, shopping centres and vacant shopfronts and seen by an immeasurable number of people from all walks of life. Through Adderton Everywhere we are also engaging new and large audiences with free children’s workshops at markets, parks and shopping centres with some very special Christmas workshops coming up at Indooroopilly Shopping Centre in December.

“When Adderton re-opens for visitors on Saturday 9 January we are looking forward to welcoming people who engaged with Adderton Everywhere into the space with new exhibitions, workshops, events.

“New exhibitions include work by Daniele Constance and Denise Faulkner, an exhibition produced by Inala Wangarra with a very special new work by Carol McGregor. There are meaningful new children’s activities, creative workshops for adults and lots more planned as we head into 2021, the 160 year anniversary of the foundation of the Sisters of Mercy in Brisbane,” Linda Phillips said.

Visit www.adderton.org.au to find out more about this project and the growing number of locations where you can see *Dirty Laundry Day* in Brisbane.

For information about how to get involved with the *Dirty Laundry Day* Project go to dirtylaundryday.org.au or connect on Facebook or Instagram.

There is support available for people experiencing or using domestic and family violence. Call DVConnect Womensline on 1800 811 811 or Mensline on 1800 600 636. In an emergency, call triple zero (000).

Adderton: house & heart of mercy, an initiative of the Sisters of Mercy Brisbane, is a unique place for people to explore justice and social issues through contemporary art, workshops and events engaging in actions to help create change.

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