



Senator Catryna Bilyk
Labor Senator for Tasmania

MEDIA RELEASE

Healing Childhood Trauma

‘Art-therapy’ helping survivors of abuse deal with their trauma

**9 November – 9 December 2010
Parliament House in Canberra**

Senator Catryna Bilyk is today launching an exhibition from The Cunningham Dax Collection, *Healing Childhood Trauma*, at Parliament House in Canberra.

Healing Childhood Trauma, is being displayed at Parliament House to give Parliamentarians and visitors the opportunity to view this important exhibition. The works in the exhibition are not only a form of self-expression, but also help to educate the broader community about the impact abuse has on those who experience it.

“Everyone deals with traumatic experiences differently. For some people art is a way of expressing themselves, whether it is for their eyes only, or to express to others how they feel,” said Senator Bilyk.

“For some people, art work may be the only way they can convey their emotions regarding the abuse”.

“It is important for survivors of abuse to be able acknowledge the trauma they have suffered,” said Senator Bilyk.

“Having worked for the man who founded this collection, Dr Eric Cunningham-Dax, I am honoured to play a role in bringing the exhibition to Parliament House,” said Senator Bilyk.

The Dax Centre promotes mental health and wellbeing through fostering a greater understanding of the mind, mental illness and trauma through art and creativity. The Dax Centre incorporates the Cunningham Dax Collection, a collection of over 15,000 works created by people with an experience of mental illness and trauma. The Dax Centre’s activities include an annual program of exhibitions, including touring exhibitions travelling interstate and internationally; an education program for secondary and tertiary students; public programs, professional development and research. The Centre will relocate to the new Parkville Neurosciences Facility at the University of Melbourne in 2012.

Media Enquires:

Daniel Hulme 0447 000 867