



Christine gets to the art of the matter with her mask creation

CHRISTINE Robinson can't see very well. A brain tumour has affected her vision.

To capture her cancer journey, the 61-year-old has decorated her plastic radiation mask which is used during radiation treatment. It is bolted down so the patient is treated precisely in the right location.

Some patients connect the mask with a form of life-saving treatment while others would prefer to never see them again.

"I had to put the mask on about eight times for 20 minutes at a time," she said.

She said being able to decorate it had given her a little power back.

Others attending the workshops included people who have lost loved ones to cancer.

Artist Freya Jobbins went to Casula Powerhouse last week to honour her friend Sussan who died during treatment for bone cancer.

"She was like a surrogate grandmother for my children," she said.

Her piece takes on a more warrior feel, representing a person's armour.

The art program, Bravery Unmasked, will culminate in an exhibition from Friday, June 10, until Sunday, June 12, at Casula Powerhouse.

Liverpool Hospital radiation oncology director Dion Forstner said turning the masks into pieces of art had given them a powerful purpose.

"Patients with head and neck cancer who have completed radiation treatment often have mixed feelings about their radiation masks," Dr Forstner said.

"For some people ... it can understandably be distress-

ing but by taking this source of pain and turning it into an art work, we're empowering patients in remission to take something gloomy and turn it into something powerful,



Details: casulapowerhouse.com.



Christine Robinson with her mask creation.