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PA502: Australians and Thais Worked Together to Create a Healing Space for Children and Their Families in a Clinical Setting: A Story of "Fairy Garden," Lampang Hospital, Thailand

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Abstract

Backgrounds: The need to have a space where children and their families can continue to have activities that promote physical, psychological and spiritual wellbeing and integrity during hospitalization is as great as when they are at home or is even greater. Unfortunately, and for many reasons, access to such a space is very limited or impossible in most acute care hospitals. **Objectives:** The objectives of this paper are threefold; namely, (1) to argue that healing promotes and preserves human integrity, (2) to argue that aesthetics provides healing, and (3) to demonstrate how aesthetics can be used to preserve human integrity in a clinical setting. **Methods:** The authors reflected on literature, personal encounters and exchange of experiences with Thai and Australian colleagues. Those reflections led us to have greater appreciation that aesthetics is part of being human. **Results:** We have realised the need to integrate aesthetics into clinical care, regardless of where the care takes place, to achieve holistic and humanising health care. Finally, we will share a story of how volunteers from Australia and Thailand work together at Lampang Hospital to create a "Fairy Garden" to materialise our appreciation and realisation. This garden will provide a space where children and their families can play, spend time together, hide from treatment pains, heal, believe and preserve their integrity as persons while receiving hospital treatments.

Keywords: Fairy Garden, Healing, Human Integrity, Australia-Thailand Collaboration, Lampang Hospital, Children, Family