



Trek of hope  
for a dementia cure



## Trek of hope for a dementia cure

My name is Mary Jane Page and I'm an Aboriginal artist. A couple months ago I was approached by Holly, Sharon, and Cecilia from the Koori Dementia Care Project (KDCP) to do a painting about dementia. I wondered to myself – 'How do you paint dementia?' So I just sat in quiet time and thought dementia is about the brain and it dies; the actual cells die. So I did it in an artistic way; best way I could do with heaps of feeling going into it. And I'm sure by looking at it you will see the feeling that went into this piece of artwork depicting a brain with dementia.

In the middle part of the brain is a *black spot*, which is the first sign of dementia and it spreads like a vortex through the other brain cells. The rest of the black around the brain is the other cells dying and the silver represents the minimum of brain tissue that is left. The *red shapes* represent the blood flow, the blood cells, and the veins. There are slight greens in there, which to me is always to do with mentality that acts like a calming. Also in the centre of the brain is the *Eye of the Mind*. We are all born with the Eye of the Mind and we will die with the Eye of the Mind. It's just part of our existence; the eye will always be there, even in sickness. The *tracks* in the top right and lower left hand corners symbolise the memory leaving the brain. The *black in the background* is the death of the brain tissues, everything's gone, and that's where it goes to when it dies. It symbolises loneliness and how the person feels with dementia. We don't know where it goes to and that is what we are hoping to find out. The *flowers* represent hope; hoping one day there will be a cure for dementia. The red in the flowers is strength and power because we must have the strength and the power to have hope. The gold also means strength and it signifies the sun, hoping that the sunlight comes in, and that there will be a brighter day for those people suffering from dementia.

This is my interpretation of dementia and I'm sure once people do take a very good, long look at it they will see what the artwork means.

**For more information about the Koori Dementia Care Project  
contact Sharon Wall, Project Manager**

**Phone: 0419 849 101 :: Email: [sharon@ageingbycaring.com.au](mailto:sharon@ageingbycaring.com.au)  
[www.neura.edu.au/research/projects/d-koori-dementia-care-project](http://www.neura.edu.au/research/projects/d-koori-dementia-care-project)**

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