Deadly Arts

Reconciliation Challenge 2026

Nepean Creative and Performing Arts High School

Aspire the Heights

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Deadly Arts is a voluntary Friday afternoon program that opens the art studio to students who want to explore First Nations art-making traditions in a relaxed, creative environment. The program draws on a wide range of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art forms: from dot painting, weaving and contemporary mixed media.

Sessions are designed to be low-pressure and student-led, focusing on building a connection and allowing participants to work at their own pace and follow their own creative interests within a First Nations framework. The program has also provided students access to a variety of activities such as an interview with NITV, a collaboration with Westmead's Children Hospital, workshops with Arts & Cultural Exchange (ACE) and leading a workshop with the Penrith Panthers Women's Team.

Deadly Arts deliberately creates a space outside of formal assessment where art is explored for its own sake, for joy, for connection, and for cultural learning. The name itself is a reclamation of a First Nations term of excellence and pride.

IMPACT ON STUDENTS

Over the past few years, First Nations students from across all year groups participate, and many return week after week, developing a sustained relationship with First Nations art forms and the cultural knowledge embedded within them.

The program has strengthened a sense of belonging for First Nations students who see their culture celebrated and practised in school. For non-Indigenous students who have participated, it has been a meaningful entry point into understanding Country, Dreaming stories and the living nature of Aboriginal culture.

Working in the Studio







Rock Painting w/ the Penrith Panthers Women's Team



