



Standard 11.4c: Other medical technologies

Medication and other medical technologies are provided in a manner that promotes choice, safety and maximum possible quality of life for the consumer

Created by Janet Meagher

This piece is flanked on either side by a person emphasising the individuality of every medical intervention. They are standing because they are strong and capable of some decision making around their treatment and care. There is a male and female to emphasise the negative effects medication can have on either gender and on their bodies and body shape. This is to be monitored by the mental health service with prompt treatment for adverse reactions. The third person's head is all we can see. The mental health service needs to ensure that a person is not utterly depersonalised, especially in the instance of recommending and the giving of Electro Convulsive Treatment (ECT). Consumers are to be empowered rather than being at a point of powerlessness about treatment or options.

The large number of medications across the quilt piece highlights the range of medications available as well as symbolising the confusion around diagnosis and treatment. This shows the concern about over reliance on medication alone in the treatment and care of people with mental health problems. There is a need for more "talking treatments" in conjunction with the use of medications to provide care and continuity over a range of settings.

The whole piece is on a yellow background. Yellow is the colour of remembrance and hope. I remember the difficult times. I am not bitter but will always remember and none of us can afford to forget. I hope that things will improve and that the pervasive hopelessness of the mental health sector will be replaced with hope for a bright and productive future for those of us with mental health problems and disorders.