

Mural raises women's health awareness

A THREE month art project by 14 Filipino women was completed on Monday with a celebratory unveiling to the community.

The project conducted through Gipsiland Breast Screen brought together the 14 Filipino women from across Latrobe Valley with the aim of celebrating their culture while increasing health awareness for the community.

Gipsiland Breast Screen information officer Sue Latimer said the art project was primarily concerned with women's health and early detection of breast cancer but offered the Filipino women a chance to come together in a non-threatening environment.

Mrs Latimer said the idea followed on from similar projects in metropolitan areas. The Latrobe Valley group decided to band together under the Breast Screen banner itself Art Project 2000.

Mrs Latimer said the project gave women who traditionally did not have access to health

services such as Breast Screen an increased awareness of where to turn when in need of help.

One project participant Lillian Gorordo said the art project had enabled the group of Filipino women to express their views on health issues.

Artist Kerrie Warren helped oversee the making of the large mural which included several individual pieces and a collection of ideas and cultural histories into one.

Mrs Latimer hopes to make the relationship between the women an ongoing one with other projects in the future.

Pictured at right is Gipsiland Breast Screen information officer Sue Latimer and artist Kerrie Warren with the group of Filipino women who spent three months working on a mural to increase awareness to women's health issues.

