



Better Together Committee 2026

Student Art Competition

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Better Together 2026: Student Art Competition

At CDU, we believe everyone deserves a respectful and safe campus culture where consent, empathy, and respect are valued. Building on previous student and staff initiatives that raised awareness around respectful relationships, bystander action, and support pathways, we are proud to introduce our 2026 student-staff committee: Better Together.

Our mission is:

Building Equality and Trust Through Empathy and Respect

Together we Offer Growth, Education, and Teamwork that Honours Everyone's Rights

As part of this campaign, we are excited to launch the Better Together 2026 Student Art Competition, inviting all students to explore the theme of Identity & Individuality. This theme encourages students to celebrate who they are, embrace authenticity and self-expression, and contribute to a more inclusive environment that honours and respects diverse identities.

Competition Overview

The Better Together Art Competition invites CDU students to creatively explore the values of the Better Together campaign.

The competition aims to:

- Introduce students to the Better Together mission
- Raise awareness about respect, empathy, and inclusion on campus
- Encourage creativity and self-expression
- Showcase the diverse perspectives within the CDU community

2026 Better Together Art Comp Theme

The first instalment of the Better Together campaign focuses on Identity & Individuality. We invite students to reflect on what individuality means to them — celebrating who you are, expressing your authentic self, and recognising the diverse identities that make up our community.

Identity & Individuality

This theme encourages students to reflect on:

- Celebrating who students are
- Encouraging authenticity and self-expression
- Creating an inclusive environment for diverse identities

Students may also draw inspiration from the broader committee's pillars:

- Identity & Individuality
- Friendship & Belonging
- Speak Up
- Personal Growth – “Evolve Better”

Entry Requirements

- The competition is open to all currently enrolled CDU students.
- Entries must be the original work of the student submitting the artwork.
- Students may submit more than one entry; however, each piece must be submitted and voted on separately

Accepted Artistic Media

All forms of creative media are welcome, including but not limited to:

- Drawing
- Painting
- Photography
- Digital illustration
- Graphic design
- Mixed media
- Physical artworks (e.g. clay or 3D forms) must be submitted as photographs, and judging will be based on the digital submission

How to Submit

To enter, students are asked to submit their artwork through Padlet here: [Better Together Art](#)

Competition

Submissions should include:

- Student's name
- A digital file of the artwork
- A title for the artwork
- A short description explaining the inspiration behind the piece and how it connects to the Better Together theme of Identity and Individuality.

- Your agreed consent to the competitions Terms and Conditions (See page 6-8)

All submitted artworks will be displayed on Padlet, where students and staff will have the opportunity to vote for their favourite piece by liking other students' submissions.

Each student will be able to vote on a submission once and votes will be tallied by the committee at the end of the Voting period: 1st of May to 11th of May 2026.

Prize

A student winner will be selected based on a unanimous vote count via Padlet.

The winner will receive:

\$250 gift card of their choice

The winning artwork may also be featured as the Better Together 2026 theme artwork and used in campaign promotions.

Content Guidelines

We encourage thoughtful and creative expression. However, artworks containing explicit, graphic, or highly distressing themes may limit our ability to publicly display or promote the piece across university platforms.

As Better Together is a student-facing initiative shared widely across the CDU community, submissions should align with CDU Student Code of Conduct [Student Code of Conduct | Charles Darwin University](#).

Artwork containing graphic violence, explicit sexual content, or other inappropriate material may not be eligible for promotion or selection.

Submissions will be placed in a pending status for review by the Better Together Committee, allowing us to moderate and manage content in line with the guidelines outlined on page 7.

To respect the privacy and creative space of our artists, comments will be restricted on submissions.

Judging & Selection Criteria

- Entries will be assessed based on artistic merit and how effectively they reflect the theme *“Identity and Individuality”* or broader Better Together mission topics.
- Judging criteria should include:
 - Eligibility (See below)
 - Interpretation and clarity of the theme
 - Creativity, uniqueness, and originality
 - Artistic composition and overall design
 - Artistic impact
 - Completeness

Better Together Art Competition – Terms & Conditions

Eligibility

- Open to current CDU students only.
- Entrants must be non-professional artists.

Submission Requirements

- Entries must be submitted by midnight (AEST) on 30th April 2026.
- Artists may submit multiple entries; each must be submitted separately.

- All artworks must be original and created solely by the entrant.
- Submissions must not infringe on any third-party rights. The artist retains full copyright and indemnifies the promoter against any claims.
- Artwork must not include logos, brand references, licensed characters, or images of recognisable people or products.

Content Guidance

- Submissions should reflect respectful, inclusive, and community-aligned values.
- Artwork containing graphic violence, explicit sexual content, or otherwise inappropriate or highly distressing material will not be eligible for promotion or selection.

Use of Artwork

By submitting artwork, students grant Better Together permission to:

- Display the artwork on university platforms
- Use the artwork in promotional materials related to the campaign

Artists will retain ownership of their original work and will be credited where possible

General

- Entries containing offensive or inappropriate material will be disqualified.

Important dates

Submission opening date: 20th of March 2026

Submission deadline: 30th of April 2026

Voting period: 1st of May to 11th of May 2026

Winner announcement via all platforms: 15th of May 2026