

MARGRET MEAGHER

ARTS AND HEALTH AUSTRALIA &
HELLO KOALAS SCULPTURE TRAIL
- CREATIVE DIRECTOR

I f you could go back to your first day on the job, what is a piece of advice you'd give your younger self? Trust the vision and be patient. Partner with people who share your dreams. When the intention is genuine, momentum builds.

In a world that often measures success by scale and speed, how do you personally define a successful day in your role? Connection. A successful day might be people who have explored a new part of town or hearing a child talk excitedly about koalas. It's heartening to see the sparkle in an artist's eyes and know a sponsor feels part of something positive. If Hello Koalas has brought people together and encouraged an appreciation for art, community and conservation, that is a successful day.

What is one unspoken rule that you've enjoyed breaking? There's an assumption that art belongs inside galleries or is only for a select audience. Hello Koalas challenges that idea by creating a free sculpture trail accessible to everyone.

What is the most rewarding feedback you receive about The Trail? Hearing Hello Koalas has created special family

memories and sparked conversations about conservation. Knowing the Trail brings joy, interaction and pride to our community is incredibly meaningful.

When you aren't running the show, what helps you recharge?

The natural environment energises and inspires me.

What is a common misconception about public art?

Public art projects are not simply about installing artworks in everyday spaces. They require a constant balance of creative vision, community engagement, sponsorship relationships, logistics, long-term maintenance.

Behind every Hello Koalas sculpture is an artist, sponsor, location partner and story. My role isn't just about creativity - it's about stewardship, ensuring the Trail continues to grow sustainably as a visitor experience, connected to the community.

