



NORTHERN TERRITORY
TOURIST COMMISSION



Northern Territory Government
Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts

Press Release

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Joint Release NTTC and Arts NT

Alice Springs to host major arts conference

Alice Springs will host the Regional Arts Australia Biennial National Arts Conference in September 2008.

The announcement was made at a luncheon in Alice Springs today (Thursday 8 September) attended by three of the RAA Board members, Northern Territory Tourist Commission and Arts NT representatives and key stakeholders from the local arts community.

Director of Arts NT, Jackie Halsey, said it will be the first time this important regional arts conference has been held in the Territory and the successful bid was the result of close cooperation between the NT Convention Bureau and Arts NT.

“We have timed the conference to be held around the annual Alice Springs Festival, which will provide local artists with increased national exposure and delegates with an opportunity to see and experience the vibrant and diverse range of arts activities in Central Australia,” Ms Halsey said.

“The theme of the three day conference will be *Art at the Heart* and over 600 delegates from all over Australia are expected to attend,” Ms Halsey said.

The Conference is expected to inject at least an additional \$640,000 into the local economy with 2400 accommodation room nights being booked to accommodate delegates.

Northern Territory Tourist Commission Managing Director, Maree Tetlow, said this conference will help raise the profile of Alice Springs as a major regional arts centre.

“The Commission recently undertook a major repositioning exercise with the Alice Springs tourism industry and the arts were identified as one of the region’s compelling features, particularly indigenous art and craft.



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“There will also be immediate flow on benefits for local businesses and tourism operators as many of the 600 delegates will undertake a range of pre and post conference touring programs during their visit,” Ms Tetlow said.

The winning bid to host the conference was a partnership between Arts NT and the NT Convention Bureau, a unit of the Northern Territory Tourist Commission.

Media contact: Christine Bond, Corporate Communications, 0401 115634

Arts NT contact: Jackie Halsey, 0401 119 807

NT Convention Bureau contact: Lynn Fairbrass 04011 15624