



**Marion Scrymgour**  
MINISTER FOR ARTS AND MUSEUMS

13 October 2005

## **TERRITORY FILM GURU WINS MAJOR NATIONAL AWARD**

Minister for Arts and Museums Marion Scrymgour today congratulated the Territory's Film Office Director Penelope McDonald for winning a prestigious national media award.

Ms McDonald is an accomplished producer and director who has made over 42 internationally award winning programs in the past 15 years.

On the weekend she took out the 2005 Australian Teachers of Media Award (ATOM) for Best Multimedia for her *FA's Immigration* DVD, which will be distributed to Australian universities and schools.

Centralian College graduate Tyronne Swift also took out an ATOM award for the Secondary Fiction prize

"The love of telling stories has resulted in Penny taking out this esteemed national award," Ms Scrymgour said.

"This is an outstanding achievement, and I congratulate Penny on her dedication and commitment to telling the story of Australia's immigration history, particularly from the end of World War II.

"She co-wrote, co-produced and co-directed the DVD, and took the award against three other contenders."

Ms Scrymgour said that in the past 15 years Ms McDonald had made over 42 i programs which included documentaries, dramas and new media pieces.

During her career Ms McDonald has also strongly encouraged many Indigenous Australians to contribute to the filmmaking industry.

Ms McDonald said: "It is an honour to have been recognised with this award along with my colleague Paul Byrnes. "For eons we as a society have been telling stories, whether it be around a campfire or the kitchen table, and presenting stories through film is something I have always loved."

"The DVD will be available so Australians can learn about their immigration history. When Australia embarked on its mass migration program after World War II, it was with a movie camera in hand."

**Ms McDonald can be contacted on 8951 1163.**