



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Free Arts Law NT Seminars**

Legal issues such as copyright and contracts will be the focus of a free Arts Law NT seminar in Alice Springs on Friday.

The seminar is being presented by the Arts Law Centre of Australia in association with Arts NT to give artists the best chance at protecting their rights and interests.

Arts Law Centre of Australia executive director Robyn Ayres said research showed many artists and art organisations did not fully understand the legal and financial benefits that came with protecting their work.

“Not only will the seminar be about contracts and copyright but also about Indigenous Cultural and Indigenous Property rights as well as moral rights,” Ms Ayres said.

“One example of an artist’s moral rights being infringed is when a sculpture that had been on the banks of the Hawkesbury River in New South Wales for 20 years was recently removed and relocated by a government authority without informing the artists involved.

“And then there are the examples of Aboriginal artists having their works sold and reproduced for sale on eBay without the artist having any knowledge of it, which is a copyright infringement.

“So not only is it important for the artist to know what is happening with their work but also for the consumer to know they are receiving genuine work after dealing in good faith.”

Ms Ayres said most artists and art organisations intend to operate within the law and this seminar is one way of steering interested people in the right direction.

She said the onus was on all involved in the art industry to inform artists of what their legal rights are or how to at least obtain the vital information.

Friday’s seminar in Alice Springs is at Witchetty’s Araluen Centre with session one covering copyright from 9am to midday. The second session from 1pm to 3.30pm covers contracts and licensing.

Bookings are essential and can be done by emailing Arts NT at [arts.office@nt.gov.au](mailto:arts.office@nt.gov.au) or phoning 8999 8981.

A Katherine seminar is also scheduled for November 10.

The Arts Law Centre of Australia provides an initial free consultation through its toll free 1800 221 457 number with comprehensive information available on its [www.artslaw.com.au](http://www.artslaw.com.au) website.

**Media Note \_ For more information contact Robyn Ayres on 0431 947 789**

Ends