



**Kon Vatskalis**  
ACTING MINISTER FOR ARTS

19 December 2005

## **\$1.7 MILLION TO ARTS COMMUNITY**

The Territory's vibrant arts community is set to benefit in 2006 through a \$1.69 million funding program announced today by Acting Arts Minister Kon Vatskalis.

NT Government funding to key arts organisations will increase by more than \$170,000 next year.

"The Northern Territory has one of the most vibrant and exciting arts scenes in Australia, and the NT Government certainly acknowledges the depth of talent and variety in our community," Mr Vatskalis said.

"This is why I am pleased to announce \$1.69 million worth of funding to Key Arts Organisations under a new and equitable arts grants system.

"Key Arts Organisations play an important role in the Territory's wider community and we are glad to be able to increase funding to some of these vital organisations."

Mr Vatskalis said funding will support and enhance the Territory arts community in fields such as visual arts, literature, music, theatre and dance.

"This is the first time there has been an open application process for the funding of Key Arts Organisations in the NT. As a result, funding in 2006 will provide a greater balance of arts activity and services throughout the Territory.

"Key Arts Organisations' funding will also ensure the continued development of a dynamic arts sector."

Mr Vatskalis said triennial funding has been awarded to three of the Territory's flagship organisations. These are Barkly Regional Arts (BRA), Katherine Regional Arts (KRA) and Tracks Inc.

"Barkly Regional Arts and Katherine Regional Arts are the only multi art form and multicultural arts delivery organisations for their particular regions," he said.

"With triennial funding both organisations will be able to deliver strong outcomes in industry and community capacity building for their respective regions, and arts service delivery to remote Indigenous communities.

"Tracks has been recognised nationally through the Sidney Myer Performing Arts Award for artistic excellence and is well known for its unique and awe-inspiring performances.

"Tracks will continue to strengthen community links, provide professional development and employment opportunities for Territory artists and promote a strong and active NT arts community on a national level."

Mr Vatskalis said organisations to receive annual funding increases include Corrugated Iron Youth Arts, Darwin Visual Arts Association, Watch This SPACE, Artback NT Arts Touring Service and InCite Youth Arts.

"InCite is based in Alice Springs and will receive funding for the first time totalling \$50,000," Mr Vatskalis said.

"This young organisation has already established an impressive record in the delivery of Community Cultural Development projects in the Alice Springs region."

