



MEDIA RELEASE

Pacific Edge Travel Assistance

Arts NT within the Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts is providing 22 Territorians with travel assistance funding towards this month's Regional Arts Australia (RAA) National Conference *The Pacific Edge*.

Arts NT director Jackie Halsey said 14 Territory artists and arts workers would be provided with \$14,500 funding for the September 15-17 conference in Mackay, Queensland.

Ms Halsey said RAA have provided an additional \$6,695 for 6 volunteers to attend the biennial conference that is this year themed "Part Festival – part conference – all Art".

"These Territorians receiving funding are from throughout the Northern Territory as particular areas can often have particular issues to deal with," Ms Halsey said.

"But one of the common threads holding them together is the important role arts play as part of our culture, and they also play a significant economic role in the Northern Territory.

"Arts NT support the networking between artists and arts workers in regional areas coming together in Mackay to identify new ideas, directions, partnerships and commitments.

"This funding will help ensure equitable support for regional arts and will encourage continued artistic excellence and innovation and promote the role of the arts in building stronger, healthier and more sustainable communities."

The 2008 RAA *Art at the Heart* conference, to be held at Alice Springs, is looking at providing opportunities for cultural and creative expression, but will also encourage debates on cultural integration, health, education and the importance of the arts in social development.

Ms Halsey said *Art at the Heart* would also explore the broad and complex interests and concerns of those working with and for the Indigenous and non-Indigenous arts in regional, rural and remote Australia.

Ends

Media Note – For more information contact Jackie Halsey on 8999 5558

Issued: 8.30am Thursday, 14 September 2006