



Marion Scrymgour

MEMBER FOR ARAFURA AND MINISTER FOR ARTS

16 September 2006

NT GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS RECOVERY FESTIVAL

The Maningrida Cyclone Recovery Festival this weekend is a community celebration to overcome the destructive effects of Cyclone Monica – and the NT Government is proud to support the festival through a \$15 000 grant.

Arts Minister – and Local Member – Marion Scrymgour, who is in Maningrida for the festival, said the grant was one of 14 festivals funded in 2006 totalling \$200 000 from the Remote Festival Fund.

“The community of Maningrida bore the brunt of Cyclone Monica earlier this year – with houses and other infrastructure destroyed and many residents left feeling displaced,” Ms Scrymgour said.

“As Local Member I am incredibly proud at the work put in by the community to help rebuild the town, and I am particularly proud as Arts Minister to award a \$15 000 grant to the community to run its inaugural Maningrida Cyclone Recovery Festival.

“This Festival will give the community an opportunity to work together to present a three day festival of art and culture – and an opportunity to reward themselves for the last few months of hardship.”

Peter Danaja of Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation will coordinate seven clan groups to perform two evenings of traditional dancing.

Ms Scrymgour said the remote area festival funding will assist in planning and developing festivities.

“Our festivals are using the unique skills that the Territory has in abundance to foster community participation and to celebrate community identity.

“Festivals are a great way of drawing people of all ages together to celebrate cultural expression and to promote the physical and spiritual wellbeing of our communities.

“The funds are a strategic investment that is dedicated to assist the sustainability and the artistic development of remote and regional festivals. This provides us with the opportunity to develop unique showcases of Territory arts in the Northern Territory.”

Ms Scrymgour said festivals contribute to sustainable economic, social and regional development, creating employment for artists and encouraging the celebration of historical, regional and cultural diversity.

Some of the other remote festivals funded this year include:

- Pine Creek Gold Rush
- Batchelor Lingalonga
- Walking with Spirits
- Gunbalanya Open Day

- Milingimbi Gatjirk
- Barunga
- Borroloola
- Croc Festival
- Purluapa Wiri - Ali Curung
- Anangu Tjungu - Docker River
- Merrepen
- Yarralin Airshow and Arts Fest
- Beanie Festival

