



MEDIA RELEASE

Students Rescued at Earth Quest

Primary School students will witness the ERA mine rescue team in action when Earth Quest opens at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory on December 1 2006.

Earth Quest - Outer Space to Inner Earth is an interactive exhibition that takes the visitor on a journey from the Milky Way through to Earth's inner core.

MAGNT Education Officer Natalie Jenkins says Earth Quest is an exciting opportunity for visitors to discover our place in space and the ERA rescue team is all part of the fun.

"The Energy Resources Australia (ERA) rescue team will show students the skills required if an incident was to occur in an NT mine due to seismic activity, like there was at Beaconsfield," she said.

"The ERA team will abseil out to an injured miner and rescue them from a potentially life threatening situation.

Ms Jenkins said the interactive exhibits will keep people busy pushing buttons, moving levers and lifting flaps – and in the process they will be finding out how our Earth works.

"Visitors to the exhibition will be able to piece together tectonic plates, and spin the Earth while watching tidal patterns," she said.

"The exhibits cover a wide range of topics such as astronomy, geology, geography, environmental science and biology.

"We need to have an understanding of the Earth and its structure to successfully use our planet's resources.

"Knowledge about the Earth's structure is important for a number of industries from mining to town planning.

"The Northern Territory is mineral rich, one of our largest employers is the minerals sector."

Ms Jenkins said the exciting opening is a collaboration between MAGNT, the NT Minerals Council and ERA.

Earth Quest - Outer Space to Inner Earth, has been developed by Questacon - The National Science and Technology Centre, Canberra.

This exhibition is supported by Visions of Australia, an Australian Government Program supporting touring exhibitions by providing funding assistance for the development and touring of cultural material across Australia.

Ends

Media Note – For more information contact Natalie Jenkins or Kathryn Farmer on 08 8999 8263. The Earth Quest opening is at MAGNT Theatrette at 10.00am. The exhibition will continue until December 21. Good photo opportunities with ERA rescue team 10:30-12:00 in the Maritime Gallery.

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