



Marion Scrymgour

MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES, ENVIRONMENT AND THE ARTS

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New NT Arts Grants Board Nominations for 2007

Arts Minister Marion Scrymgour today announced that nominations are open for membership on the new Arts Grants Board as well as the newly established Northern Territory Register of Peers.

“The Territory has the most active and creative arts community in Australia—we have much to celebrate,” said Ms Scrymgour.

“It is the diversity of our cultures and lifestyles that really make the Territory such an exciting place to live and work.”

“The new Arts Grants Board refines the establishment four years ago of the Territory’s first independent, arms-length approach to government funding of the arts in the Territory.”

Rather than grants panels being drawn from a large pool of members, with little continuity between panels, the new Board looks to becoming a smaller, more focussed group that can also supply government with robust policy and other advice.

“The Arts Grants Board assesses applications to the Arts Grants project round and allocates available funding – about \$500 000 worth - from the Northern Territory Government and the Australian Government through the Regional Arts Fund.

“We are calling for expressions of interest and will appoint eight members to the Arts Grants Board early in 2007 for a three year term.

“I encourage all those with an interest in, and commitment to the arts, to nominate.

“We are also strongly encouraging other professionals like lawyers, educators or corporate managers to engage with the arts to extend the skill set of the new Board.

“I thank the former Arts Grants Board for their valued contribution and encourage them to consider nomination to the new Board.”

Ms Scrymgour is also calling for expressions of interest for the Northern Territory Register of Peers.

“The Northern Territory Register of Peers will be an advisory body and open to all those interested and experienced in arts and culture who would like to be involved in the development of arts in the NT,” Ms Scrymgour said.

“The Register will be a source of general and specialist advice for policy development and special initiatives, and peers may be called on as participating advisers at policy meetings or as external assessors to supply information on specific applications.

“Practising artists, arts workers, administrators and other professionals in all art forms and of varied background are invited to join the Register.

“Representation from Indigenous, youth, remote and regional community members is particularly important.”

For more information on either initiative go to www.arts.nt.gov.au