



## MEDIA RELEASE

### Screen Grants Advisory Panel

The Northern Territory Film Office (NTFO) is calling for expressions of interest for membership on the NT Screen Grants Advisory Panel.

NTFO director Penelope McDonald said members of the panel will consider applications to the Screen Grants Program, which provides an opportunity for Territory-based production companies to secure funding for developing projects.

"The panel is responsible for making recommendations regarding funding applications to the NTFO," Ms McDonald said.

"NTFO Screen Grants are to support and develop the screen industry in the NT, including supporting productions to a stage where they can attract production finance.

"The Screen Grants Advisory Panel was established in 2005 in response to screen industry requests for a panel that could apply specialist screen knowledge in considering applications.

"The panel will comprise a representative of the NTFO and two industry members who will be selected for the panel, based on their relevant screen experience and knowledge."

Ms McDonald said a total of 63 grants were offered last year, through April and November Screen Grant rounds, and across Project Development, Script Development, Production Funding and Travel Grants to attend events for professional or market development."

"Funding from the Screen Grants Program has also benefited the NT's Screen Industry through professional development workshops as well as screenings of interest to the wider community," Ms McDonald said.

"Several documentary projects are currently being developed with support of NT Film Office grants, including Simon Says TV's *Northern Conflict*, being developed by Dixi Joy Bankier, and two documentaries being developed by Alice Springs-based Desert Vision, *The Ingkata's Masterpiece and My Islam*.

"A number of feature film scripts are also currently in development including, Megan Jacobson's *The Build Up* and Tom E. Lewis and Fleur Parry's *The Hairy Man*.

"Since opening in 2004, the NT Film Office had allocated \$450,000 in grants."

Expressions of interest for the Screen Grant Advisory Panel should include details of any film, television or digital media experience and/or qualifications, along with a current CV/Resume.

Applications close on March 30, and further information is available by contacting Kira Tapps at the NTFO on 8951 1162.

Ends

**Media Note \_ For more information contact Penelope McDonald on 08 8951 1163.**

Issued: 8.15am Friday, 23 March 2007