Northern Territory Government | DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, ENVIRONMENT AND THE ARTS

Telstra

MEDIA RELEASE

6 SEPTEMBER 2007

People's Choice Award Voting Closing Soon

The public has until Sunday, 9 September 2007 to select its favourite entry in this year's *24th Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award* held at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory (MAGNT) in Darwin.

MAGNT acting assistant director Dr Scott Mitchell said attendance figures at this year's exhibition had been strong with many visitors taking up the opportunity to vote for their favourite entry.

"More than 21,000 people have visited MAGNT since the Telstra Art Award ceremony on 10 August 2007 and more than 500 votes have been received during that time," Dr Mitchell said.

"Votes will be collected up until 5pm on Sunday with the votes counted on Monday.

"There were 104 finalists for this year's Telstra Art Award and the artist who designed the most popular work as judged by the public will receive a certificate acknowledging their achievement."

The coveted **$40,000 TELSTRA ART AWARD** went to Torres Strait Islander artist Dennis Nona for his work *Ubirikubiri*, a cast bronze structure of a 3.5m crocodile that depicts the story of a legend that took place on the Mai Kusa (River) on the western coast of Papua New Guinea.

In addition to the Telstra Art Award, prizes were awarded in four other categories:

The $4,000 Telstra General Painting Award, was awarded to Northern Territory-based artist Angelina George for her work *Near Ruined City*.
The $4,000 Telstra Bark Painting Award was awarded to Margaret Rarru Garrawurra from Arnhem Land for her work *Ngarra Body Paint Design.*
The $4,000 Telstra Works on Paper, was awarded to Alick Tipoti from the Torres Strait Islands for his work *Gubau Aimai Mabaigal.*
The $4,000 Wandjuk Marika Three-Dimensional Memorial Award, sponsored by Telstra was awarded to Laurie Nilsen from Queensland for his work *Goolburris on the Bungil Creek*.

Ends

Media Note – For more information contact Dr Scott Mitchell on 8999 8245

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THE VISUAL ARTS AND CRAFT STRATEGY

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