

**Media Release:**

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## **Consultant to Review Territory Theatre and Performance Sector**

The Northern Territory Government in partnership with the Australia Council for the Arts has employed consultant Justin Macdonnell, Executive Director of the Sydney based Anzarts Institute, to conduct a review of the Northern Territory theatre and performance sector.

Director of Heritage and the Arts, Michael Wells said the aim of the review is to provide independent expert advice by assessing the strengths and weaknesses of the theatre sector in the Northern Territory.

“The review, to start in June 2008, will include linkages to the broader performing arts and help identify opportunities and needs for the industry,” Mr Wells said.

Consultant Justin Macdonnell has 40 years of experience in arts management and consultancy and has been strongly engaged in the fields of national and regional cultural policy.

Mr Wells said the review follows the Australia Council for the Arts’ discussion paper, *Make it new*, aimed at strengthening theatre as a vibrant and contemporary art form and has resulted in restructured theatre funding programs throughout Australia.

“The consultant’s recommendations will inform both the Northern Territory Government and the Australia Council for the Arts in setting program strategies for sector development and investment in the Northern Territory,” Mr Wells said.

The review will call for individuals working in theatre and performing arts in the Northern Territory to enter written submissions, which will be followed up with face to face meetings and group consultations in Darwin and Alice Springs.

Details on providing submissions and meeting dates are available on Arts NT website [www.arts.nt.gov.au](http://www.arts.nt.gov.au).

**Media Note – for more information contact Hania Radvan on 8999 7082.**

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