



Media Release:

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Travelling to the Heart of Art

A total of 56 Territory artists, arts administrators and volunteers have received more than \$50,000 through Northern Territory Government travel assistance grants to attend the sixth biennial Regional Arts Australia national conference **art at the heart** held in Alice Springs in October 2008.

Director of Heritage and The Arts, Michael Wells, said the delegates will be travelling via road, rail and air to join other delegates from across the country.

“Attending the **art at the heart** conference is an important opportunity and supports networking for those involved in the arts from regional areas throughout the Territory,” Mr Wells said.

A total of \$54,962 was provided to the following delegates:

- 28 representatives from Darwin region, including Darwin Festival Director Joanne Duffy.
- 16 representatives from the Katherine region, including five artists and staff from the Mimi Arts and Crafts Aboriginal Corporation and Jan Cole, winner of the 2007 Portrait of a Senior Territorian Art Award.
- 11 representatives from the Barkly region, including representatives from the Winanjjikari Music Centre and Vice Chair of Desart Rhonda Plummer.
- Chair of Desart Tess Ross will be attending from Yuendumu.

Mr Wells said Northern Territory delegates will leave a legacy of new skills and exchanges.

“The arts are an important part of our cultural life, and they also play a significant economic role in the Territory - this opportunity will initiate exchanges and collaborations between artists and arts organisations not only within the Territory but throughout Australia.”

Registrations for **art at the heart** close next Monday 15 September 2008. To find out more about the conference and how to attend visit www.artattheheart.com.au.

art at the heart is hosted by the Northern Territory Government through Arts NT in collaboration with the Alice Springs Town Council. The Australian Government supports Regional Arts Australia's national conferences through the Regional Arts Fund. The Australia Council for the Arts supports the artistic program for the conference. The Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs is supporting Indigenous participation in the conference.

Ends

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

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