New $300,000 Gathering Garden Opens In Alice Springs

Minister for Central Australia Karl Hampton today joined Alice Springs Mayor Damien Ryan at the Civic Centre Lawns to officially launch a new public art installation.

Mr Hampton said the Territory Government was proud to have contributed $150,000 to the Gathering Garden project through the Government’s Public Art Grants Program, with a further $150,000 contribution coming from the Alice Springs Town Council.

“Public art provides significant social, economic, cultural and environmental benefits to the community - this is particularly relevant in Alice Springs which has a very strong history,” Mr Hampton said.

“The Public Art Grants Program is part of the Territory Government’s commitment to sustain and celebrate the Territory’s unique culture and heritage.

“The Program increases awareness of public art, supports the creation of artistic work in the Territory’s public spaces and provides professional engagement and showcasing opportunities for Territory artists.

“The Gathering Garden is spectacular and I congratulate everyone involved in the project, including artist Julie Squires, who came up with the concept, the Town Council and Indigenous artists from nine communities surrounding Alice Springs who worked on the project.”

The artists are Marcia Alice, April Campbell, Emma Daniels, Marie Elena Ellis, Roseanne Ellis, Tina Malbunka, Michael Nelson, Thomas Rice, June Smith and MK Turner.

Mr Ryan said the Civic Centre site has a rich history which includes being the site of the town’s first mosque and fire brigade, as well as being the residence of well known horticulturalist and anthropologist Miss Olive Pink.

“It’s a great honour to open the Gathering Garden with Minister Hampton for everyone in Alice Springs, as it is a monument and living celebration of Alice’s cultural diversity and rich history,” Mr Ryan said.