The Northern Territory Indigenous Music Awards go national

The Northern Territory Indigenous Music Awards will go national this year as part of the Darwin Festival, Minister for the Arts and Museums Gerry McCarthy announced today.

Minister McCarthy made the announcement at the unveiling of the Music NT 2011 program of events.

“The Territory has the best indigenous music talent in Australia and I’m confident they will dominate the national stage – this year the Indigenous Music Awards will again be held as part of the Darwin Festival and will transition into a national event over the next four years.

“For the first time this year three categories in the Northern Territory Indigenous Awards will be opened up to the national stage providing new opportunities for Territory musicians to get exposure and show off their talents to an Australian-wide audience,” Minister McCarthy said.

“The Territory Government is already investing $290,000 through Music NT this year to supporting Territory musicians and provide more access to the art for Territorians.”

Minister McCarthy said the Music NT 2011 program provides Territorian musicians and music lovers with music activities around the Northern Territory over the coming year, including:

- Indigenous Music Awards. These Awards, currently in their 8th year, are transitioning from a Territory event to the National stage.
- iNTune Music conference bringing together representatives of the national music industry to Darwin to provide opportunities for musicians to network, connect and pursue careers in the industry.
- Bush Bands Bash to provide opportunities to musicians in the Central Australian region. The scheme will also provide mentors to the Bush Bands Business workshops to provide practical training from some of Australia’s leading music industry figures.

“We want to provide access to the arts no matter where you live in Territory – that’s why the Territory Government is providing $150,000 each year for three years towards Music NT and Artback NT Arts Development and Touring’s Music Touring Initiative,” Minister McCarthy said.

“This initiative will provide musicians and remote community audiences with local touring experiences, building industry and performance opportunities and exposure for Territory musicians.”

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