Minister for Education and Training Chris Burns today announced the opening of applications for the 2012 Creative Education Partnerships: Artists in Residence initiative (AIR) program in Territory schools.

Arts NT within the Department of Natural Resources, Environment, The Arts and Sport (NRETAS), the Department of Education and Training (DET) and the Australia Council for the Arts, are again offering project funding to enable schools to employ a professional artist to work alongside the school community.

Dr Burns said the AIR initiative has been running since 2009 and encourages local artists, teachers and art organisations to work together to develop creative activities in schools and learning institutions across the Territory.

“Funding of up to $25 000 per project is offered to artists, arts and cultural organisations and Territory schools, for creative education projects that will strengthen relationships and partnerships between artists, arts organisations, teachers, schools and community.

“Creative arts are a fantastic way to engage students and the community with education and I am pleased to see schools from all over the Territory taking part and benefiting from this great initiative.”

“This year, Arts NT has contributed $20 000 toward the initiative, and the Australia Council for the Arts will contribute $70 000 toward the project funding.

“Both the students and the artists gain excellent skills from the program, which builds capacity and expertise in the arts and education sectors.

“The objective is to create residency activities and opportunities in schools, for artists to broaden their experiences and share their skills, while providing Northern Territory students with greater exposure to the benefits of creative practice,” Dr Burns said.

So far, over seventy artists have been employed to work with teachers and students in schools since the beginning of the Artist in Residence Initiative.

Proposals can now be submitted online to Arts NT by 18 June 2012.

For more information on eligibility and scope of proposals visit Arts NT’s website at www.arts.nt.gov.au

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