Rural Health conference delegates get a taste of Territory art

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More than 1000 delegates at the 13th National Rural Health Conference (NRHC) in Darwin are being treated to an art and health program showcasing NT artists and projects.

The Conference is the largest biennial event for those working to improve the health and wellbeing of residents in rural, regional and remote Australia.

Arts and Museums Minister Gary Higgins said the arts and health theme was first introduced at the NRHC in Alice Springs in 2005.

“The Northern Territory Government has partnered with the Australian Government, Regional Arts Australia and project partner Barkly Regional Arts, to showcase the innovation of NT artists in respect to the impact of arts in health practice,” Minister Higgins said.

“Barkly Regional Arts received almost $27,000 through the Australian Government Regional Arts Fund delivered by Arts NT in the Northern Territory to support the showcase of 20 Indigenous artists from remote and regional communities across 15 activities including workshops, presentations, theatre and music performances.”

Showcases include:

- Gift of Life play and discussion presented by Artback NT and Donate Life.
- Barkly Regional Arts Pop Up Gallery and Showcase, presented by Barkly Regional Arts.
- Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation Showcase, presented by Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation.
- Supporting Children’s Health and Wellbeing through Creative Environments: A tour of Bagot Community’s Out of School Hours Care facility, presented by Child Australia.
- The Mulka Project Showcase, presented by Buku-Larrnggay Mulka Centre.
- Shellie Morris Plenary keynote performance and associated activities: Empowering and educating through music.
“This is a wonderful collaboration between arts and health and one the government is proud to support,” Mr Higgins said.

Under the National Arts and Health Framework, endorsed by the Meeting of Cultural Ministers and the Standing Council on Health the Territory Government recognises the important contribution of the arts to the health and well being of all Territorians.

The Northern Territory Government has also contributed $30,000 to the running of the conference.

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