Fantastic festivals fun for Territorians

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Arts and Museums Minister Gary Higgins has paid tribute in Parliament to the volunteers, artists and organisers of festivals across the Territory.

“It’s not an easy task pulling together big events...or even smaller grass roots occasions,” Minister Higgins said.

“But literally hundreds of volunteers and non-profit organisations do just that every year, with the proud backing of the Northern Territory Government.”

The Minister outlined a handful of examples and the success of those events.

“Around 90,000 people attended the (Darwin) Festival, box office income was about $950,000 with 26,000 tickets sold, 30 shows were sold out, an estimated 450 local artists participated and website users increased 12 percent on last year and social media following increased by 32 percent,” he said.

“The Darwin Festival takes more than 100 staff under General Manager Mark Crees to deliver it each year – this year we also had a new artistic director Andrew Ross – and they have done it all extremely well.

“In Central Australia, they have also had a solid period of cultural celebrations.

“At the Bush Bands Bash and Desert Diva, more than 2300 attended the night concert with seven bands performing. At the skills development workshops, more than 50 musicians were involved and about 30 mentors from across the Australian music industry support the acts and prepared them for the Bash.”

Meanwhile the Alice Springs Desert Festival held 32 events over 11 days with more than 100 artists, more than 10,000 attendees and more than 50,000 website page views.

“The Territory Government is proud to make it possible for these festivals to occur and thrive,” Mr Higgins said.

“As well as operational funding for some organisations, overall funding under the Community Festivals program alone is almost $1.5 million this year.

“Congratulations to all involved, in every community, with every festival.”
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