Artwork and Donations from “Behind the Wire”

The Justice Minister Peter Toyne has officially opened the Darwin Correctional Centre’s Annual Prisoner Art Exhibition at Fannie Bay Gaol Museum.

Dr Toyne also presented Victims of Crime (NT) with a $16,000 cheque.

“The money has accumulated over the years from the sale of artwork featured in previous prisoner art exhibitions, and was held in trust until a substantial amount could be donated,” he said.

“VOC (NT) is recognised by prisoners and staff as a valuable community organisation. It was nominated to receive the funds as a way for prisoners to give back to the community and victims of crime.”

This year’s art exhibition is titled Behind the Wire and features 87 pieces of artwork ranging from paintings and sculptures to ceramics and silk works.

“As with previous years it contains some fairly strong and stunning exhibits,” Dr Toyne said.

“The works are produced by prisoners enrolled in the art and craft education program at the correctional centre – a nationally accredited program that is a popular outlet for prisoners’ imagination and creativity.

“As well as being a positive project to focus offenders, the initiative fits with the Government’s Building Safer Communities Framework which aims to encourage offenders into education, and to embrace rehabilitation and reparation programs.

“The annual art exhibition is an excellent concept and I congratulate the Correctional Services staff who make it happen each year.”

Behind the Wire is part of the Darwin Festival and will be open to the public from 10am to 4.30pm every day until 3 September.

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