Arts Minister Marion Scrymgour tonight congratulated all the winners of the NT’s 2nd annual Indigenous Music Awards, paying tribute to the unique talent of Territory musicians.

The Awards were held tonight at Marrara Stadium.

“The NT Music Awards gives everyone an opportunity to recognise the talent we have here in the Territory – talent that continues to thrive and is so unique,” Ms Scrymgour said.

“I wish to congratulate all the acts that were nominated as they all deserve to receive recognition and encouragement.”

The Awards were started last year as part of the NT Government’s Indigenous Arts Strategy – the first strategy of its kind in Australia.

“The NT Government has supported the 2004 and 2005 Awards with an overall investment of $100 000,” Ms Scrymgour said.

“This is an important investment as songs and music form a major part of the lives of Indigenous people – be it the ancient sounds of ceremonies, the songs of Warrumpi Band, or the newer sounds of our youth and school bands.

“Music has the highest participation rate in our communities and it helps keep language and culture strong, as well as providing a contemporary voice for our young people. It also generates ongoing income for our musicians and songwriters as well.”

Ms Scrymgour said that the Awards also give encouragement and support to young musicians – with Education Minister Syd Stirling this year sponsoring a new prize recognising the achievements of school bands.

Full list of winners attached.

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