EUROPEAN COLLECTORS SEEKING INDIGENOUS ART

A Territory-Government sponsored delegation of European art collectors arrive in Darwin today to begin a week-long mission meeting Indigenous artists and visiting art centres across the Territory, Trade Minister Paul Henderson said.

The mission is the first of three that will be sponsored by the Government through its Trade Support Scheme as part of a key project to grow new markets for Territory Indigenous arts and crafts.

“The Trade Support Scheme is proving very successful in supporting individual businesses with financial and practical support to target new export deals,” Mr Henderson said.

“Building on that success the Government has developed the first Trade Support Scheme key industry project, specifically focused on backing the Indigenous arts and crafts sector to increase their export markets.

“The six person delegation, made up of gallery owners and collectors from Germany and Austria, will visit or view art from 26 Indigenous art centres, meeting artists and learning about the cultural and historical elements of their work.

“We have already received excited feedback from both artists and delegation members, and I am confident this will be an important first step toward new markets for Indigenous Territorian artists.”

The European delegation will travel to Oenpelli tomorrow before returning to Darwin to participate in NT Expo this weekend.

They will then travel to the Tiwi Islands, Alice Springs, Uluru and Yuendumu before beginning the journey home.

“The delegation’s wide-ranging itinerary and approach to meeting artists and visiting centres has been well regarded, and the Government is already working on sponsoring a second European art and crafts collectors’ mission to the Territory in September,” said Mr Henderson.

Mr Henderson will meet the mission this afternoon.

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