Prisoners Showcase Artwork

The Justice Minister Chris Burns has officially opened the Darwin Correctional Centre’s annual *Behind the Wire* art exhibition at Fannie Bay Gaol Museum.

Dr Burns also presented Victims of Crime (NT) with a $3207 cheque for artwork sold as part of last year’s exhibition.

“The art exhibition is such a worthwhile concept,” Dr Burns said.

“It aims to encourage offenders into education, and to embrace rehabilitation and reparation programs.

“It also allows prisoners to give back to the community through the money raised for Victims of Crime, as well as enabling inmates to gain valuable skills.”

Prisoners who choose to attend art education are enrolled into Certificate 1 or Certificate 2 in Visual Art and Contemporary Craft.

Dr Burns said this year’s exhibition features 87 pieces of artwork ranging from paintings and sculptures to ceramics and Japanese tie dyed textiles.

This year prisoners made a unanimous decision to keep the artwork anonymous because they wanted it to be about their art not their past.

Dr Burns said visitors to the exhibition can vote for their favourite piece of artwork and sign the visitor’s book to provide feedback.

“The work contained in *Behind the Wire* is often confronting but always thought provoking. I congratulate the Correctional Services staff who make the exhibition happen each year,” he said.

*Behind the Wire* is part of the Darwin Festival and will be open to the public from 10am to 4pm every day until September 7.

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