Popular Behind The Wire Exhibition Opens Today

Member for Fannie Bay Michael Gunner today urged the public to visit Fannie Bay Gaol over the next few weeks to view one of the Territory’s most popular art exhibitions.

“Fannie Bay Gaol is rich in social history and one of the Territory’s most important and popular heritage sites,” Mr Gunner said.

“And for the next few weeks the Gaol – which attracts 30,000 visitors each year – will host the annual Behind the Wire exhibition featuring some of the Territory’s most vibrant artworks.

“These artworks – which include drawings, ceramics, tiles, sculpture and modern and abstract paintings – are produced by detainees at the Don Dale Juvenile Detention Centre and by inmates at the Alice Springs Correctional Centre and the Darwin Correctional Centre.

“These detainees and inmates are part of a group who are either enrolled in a Certificate I or II in Visual and Contemporary Art or do art recreationally, paying for the supply themselves.

“Art is recognised as being part of the rehabilitation process to help break the cycle of re-offending, giving inmates and detainees the chance to build their skills for future job opportunities.

“In Don Dale Juvenile Detention Centre the art program is a vital part of the education curriculum.

“The artists gain a sense of self-esteem and enjoyment from producing the artwork and importantly, the proceeds from the sale of the works goes to Victims of Crime NT.

“I thank Northern Territory Corrections staff for supporting exhibitions such as Behind the Wire and making it all possible.”

Mr Gunner said Behind the Wire is one of the highlights of the annual Darwin Festival and entry to the exhibition which features about 100 artworks is free.

Behind the Wire will be held from tomorrow until Sunday 5 September 2010 from 10am to 3pm each day at the Fannie Bay Gaol along East Point Road.

Go to www.darwinfestival.org.au for more information.

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