

Media Release No. 630

For release 24 April 2015

Dance team funding applications open as part of 2015 TSRA dance strategy

Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area dance teams are invited to submit applications for funding to perform at the 2015 Cairns Indigenous Art Fair, 30 July - 2 August 2015.

The art fair brings together performers, art centres and commercial galleries from across the nation in a celebration of the beauty and diversity of Australian Indigenous cultures, and expects to attract thousands of visitors from across the globe.

The Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) Chairperson, Mr Joseph Elu, encourages dance teams from across the region to apply for the funding, made available through the TSRA Dance Strategy.

“The TSRA’s *Dance Strategy* is a targeted initiative to support the development and promotion of Torres Strait dance, and is coordinated by our Culture, Art and Heritage (CAH) Programme,” Mr Elu said.

“CAH Programme staff maintain close relationships with event coordinators around the nation and internationally to present these opportunities and to ensure a positive experience for everyone involved.”

Mr Elu said, since 2011, the TSRA has supported dance teams to perform at major events including the Cairns Indigenous Art Fair, Darwin Festival, WOMADelaide, and Henley Festival in the United Kingdom.

“These are prominent events in the national arts calendar, which offer a level of exposure beyond what can be achieved here in the Torres Strait,” Mr Elu said.

“The successful dance team in the 2015 Dance Strategy will receive funding to cover the full cost of travelling to the art fair to perform and conduct workshops at the event and, while previous experience is favourable, newcomers should not be discouraged.”

Mr Elu said visual artists will also have the opportunity to exhibit at the event through the Gab Titui Cultural Centre’s exhibition booth.

“Gab Titui will soon be calling for works from visual artists from around the region, who I would also encourage to take advantage of the unique opportunity,” Mr Elu said.

More information about the TSRA's *Dance Strategy*, funding guidelines and application forms can be obtained by contacting the TSRA Acting Cultural Development Officer, Regina Turner, on 07 40 690 884 or regina.turner@tsra.gov.au.

Applications close 5pm Friday 15 May 2015.





Urab and Zogo Tudi Dance Team performing at the 2014 Darwin Festival. Images: Elise Derwin.

ENDS

TSRA Media Contact – Bruce Nelson on 0423 403 449