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### TORRES STRAIT DANCE TEAMS TO PERFORM AT 2014 INDIGENOUS ART FAIRS

Two dance teams from the Torres Strait have been selected to perform at the 2014 Darwin Festival and Cairns Indigenous Art Fair in July and August this year.

Urab and Zogo Tudi Dancers from the sister communities of Poruma and Warraber will represent the Torres Strait at the Darwin Festival, from 7-24 August, while Arpaka Dance Company from St Pauls' community is set to perform at the Cairns Indigenous Art Fair, from 24-27 July.

The events will bring performers, art centres and commercial galleries from across the nation together in a celebration of the beauty and diversity of Australian Indigenous cultures.

Each dance team is being sponsored by the Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) to participate in the events through the *Torres Strait Dance Strategy*. This is made possible through the TSRA's Culture Art and Heritage Program grant funding.

Since 2011, the TSRA has been supporting the development and promotion of local Torres Strait dance by coordinating opportunities for local teams to attend major national and international events, including the Darwin Festival, Cairns Indigenous Art Fair, WOMADelaide and Henley Festival in the United Kingdom.

The TSRA Chairperson, Mr Joseph Elu congratulated the dance teams on their successful applications.

"Both dance teams were selected through a highly competitive process by a panel that included the festival organisers" Mr Elu said.

"The calibre and professionalism of our region's dance teams is very high and we are proud to see them being recognised on the national stage in front of thousands of visitors from around the globe."

Most recently, Urab and Zogo Tudi Dancers attended *Clancestry* at Brisbane's Southbank, while Arpaka Dance Company has performed under the artistic direction of Dennis Newie at venues including Paris, Brisbane, Adelaide, Cairns and the Solomon Islands.

For more information on the *Torres Strait Dance Strategy* contact the TSRA's Cultural Development Officer Leitha Assan on 07 4069 0700 or by email, [info@tsra.gov.au](mailto:info@tsra.gov.au).



Urab and Zogo Tudi Dance Team, *Clancestry 2014*. Photo: Mick Richards.



Urab and Zogo Tudi Dance Team, *Clancestry 2014*. Photo: Mick Richards.



Arpaka Dance Company, *Festival of Pacific Arts 2012*. Photo: Wayne Quilliam.



Arpaka Dance Company, *WOMAdelaide 2013*.

**ENDS**

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