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TSRA Announces Successful Dance Strategy Applicant

The Saam Karem Era Kodo Mer Dance Team from Erub has been successful in their bid to perform at the 2015 Cairns Indigenous Art Fair in July this year.

The fair is a unique four day event that merges an art market with a celebration of Queensland's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and is one of Australia's most recognised art festivals, attracting over 18,000 visitors in 2014.

The team was selected from a field of four in the 2015 Torres Strait Dance Strategy, an initiative of the Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) Culture, Art and Heritage Programme.

The strategy is focussed on the development and promotion of Torres Strait dance and has produced some fantastic results to date, said TSRA Acting Chairperson Mr Aven S. Noah.

"Since 2011, the Torres Strait Dance Strategy 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", Mr Noah said.

Mr Noah congratulated the dance team, which has previously performed at events including the *Torres Strait Islands: A Celebration* festival in the Brisbane Cultural Precinct in 2011.

"Saam Karem Era Kodo Mer was selected through a highly competitive process by a panel that included the Artistic Director of the Cairns Indigenous Art Fair".

"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 visitors from around the globe".

Saam Karem Era Kodo Mer will perform throughout the art fair from 31 July – 2 August, including at opening night celebrations on Thursday 30 July at 7pm.

For more information contact TSRA Acting Cultural Development Officer, Regina Turner on 07 40 690 700 or by email info@tsra.gov.au.



Saam Karem Era Kodo Mer Dance Team performing at *The Torres Strait Islands: A Celebration* opening weekend. Gallery of Modern Art, July 2011. Photo: Natasha Harth.



Saam Karem Era Kodo Mer Dance Team performing at the 2014 Gab Titui Indigenous Art Award opening. Gab Titui Cultural Centre, April 2014. Photo: George Serras, National Museum of Australia.

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