



Garry Namponan. *Ku, yellow camp dog* 2006. Acrylic and natural ochres on milkwood. Private collection. Photo: Michael Marzik

## Cairns Indigenous Art Marketplace

### \$1 million over four years

The Art Marketplace is an exciting element of Backing Indigenous Arts. It aims to make Cairns a national and international centre for high quality Indigenous art from Far North Queensland and the Torres Strait.

The Marketplace will also help take the unique art from this region to the rest of the world and introduce it to new audiences and younger generations.

It will be a one-stop destination for Indigenous art from the Far North, with the Marketplace complemented by a major performing arts program to feature dance, music and storytelling.

The Marketplace aims to harness and grow demand for Far North Queensland Indigenous art both in Australia and overseas and it will become a significant tourist attraction for the region.

It will be supported by partnerships with key government and business organisations in Far North Queensland, who will work together to achieve economic, social and cultural benefits.

As well as showcasing Indigenous art and culture, the Marketplace will encourage industry growth, professional development and ethical practice. Established and emerging artists will be involved in this landmark project, which will bring major international and national buyers to the city.



Fiona Omeeny. *Two Big Clan* 2007. Acrylic on canvas. Courtesy Andrew Baker Art Dealer

## Building Skills and Opportunities

\$3.43 million over four years

Stories and legends are kept alive and passed on to younger generations through visual art, dance, music and new technology. New generations make new connections between traditions and modern life.

Backing Indigenous Arts is investing in projects to build skills and opportunities for artists and communities which will help to maintain and

share cultural traditions. This includes artist-in-residence and mentoring programs; expansion of youth arts; Indigenous dance and music including festivals, touring and showcase opportunities; digital storytelling; and Indigenous writing initiatives. A priority will be support for Indigenous arts, education and training projects with the Department of Education, Training and the Arts.



Nathan Pabia, Tagai State College (Thursday Island) student preparing for his dance performance in *Kuta Zuru* in *Creative Generation - State Schools Onstage 2007* at the Queensland Performing Arts Centre. Photo: Tony Phillips

### Building Skills and Opportunities projects include:

- Carpentaria Ghost Nets Projects: creating local income for Aboriginal communities by recycling discarded net materials into wearable art and bags
- Education Queensland partnerships to run school holiday workshops in the Torres Strait, Cairns, Weipa and the Western Cape
- Writing for Radio: partnership with BBC World Radio and 99.8FM Murri Radio to develop Indigenous writing and content
- Indigenous dance and music programs including festivals, touring and showcase opportunities.



Garry Namponan and Josephine Korkatain at the Wik and Kagu Art Centre at Aurukun, 2007. Photo: Michael Marzik

*“For a number of people, particularly the younger generation, there is a desire not only to revive the myths and legends of the past for current inspiration, but also to show the importance of identity ...”*

**Brian Robinson, *Ailan Currents – contemporary printmaking from the Torres Strait, KickArts Contemporary Arts, 2007***