



Malarndirri McCarthy
MINISTER FOR INDIGENOUS DEVELOPMENT

26 August 2010

Celebrating Indigenous Music

Territory Indigenous music is set to be celebrated this weekend as part of the Darwin Festival, with the 7th annual Indigenous Music Awards at the Darwin Amphitheatre, Saturday 28 August.

Minister for Indigenous Development, Malarndirri McCarthy, today announced the headline acts will include Saltwater Band, Tableland Drifters and Warren H Williams.

“Music plays a significant role in Indigenous culture and communities as a way of connecting people and sharing their stories with a wider audience,” Ms McCarthy said.

“Increasing participation in arts and cultural activities and events is a key target within our Territory 2030 strategic plan and the Indigenous Music Awards is a great opportunity to showcase and recognise extraordinary Indigenous talent.

“The Territory Government is proud to support the Indigenous Music Awards and provides \$100,000 annually towards this significant event which brings thousands of locals and visitors together to enjoy the rich diversity of Territory Indigenous music.”

Finalists for Act of the Year are solo artists Jessica Mauboy, Geoffrey Gurrumul Yunupingu and Warren H. Williams, and the Garrangali Band from Yilpara are up for four out of the five awards this year, including Emerging Act of the Year, Album of the Year, Song of the Year, DVD/Clip of the Year and Best Artwork.

Ms McCarthy said the Awards also play a key role in identifying new talent and providing professional development opportunities to Indigenous musicians living in the Territory.

“These Award have helped Indigenous musicians establish themselves and the Territory in the national and international spotlight,” Ms McCarthy said.

“The Territory Government is committed to fostering Indigenous musical talent in the Territory and has committed funding of \$150,000 per annum over three years to Music NT and Artback NT Arts Development and Touring to develop a Northern Territory music touring circuit to provide local touring experiences for musicians and remote community audiences.”

Coinciding with the Indigenous Music Awards is the iTune Music Conference, which kicks off in Darwin tomorrow and runs until Saturday, 28 August 2010.

iNTune provides Territory musicians with an opportunity to gain key information and develop networks in the industry.

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