

## Media Release **No. 466**

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### **TORRES STRAIT ARTISTS TRIUMPH AT DARWIN AND CAIRNS FESTIVALS**

The Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) has congratulated Torres Strait artists for their outstanding success at this year's Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair and Cairns Indigenous Art Fair.

The TSRA Chairperson, Mr John Toshie Kris, said this year's fairs have again been highly successful and he thanked Torres Strait artists for their contributions.

"The Darwin and Cairns art fairs present a fantastic opportunity to promote the art and culture of the Torres Strait to a big and enthusiastic audience," Mr Kris said.

"Through the hard work and support of so many local artists, the Gab Titui Cultural Centre was again able to provide a unique and popular contribution to the fairs."

"The enthusiastic response to the fairs in recent years reflects the growing public interest in the unique talent, distinct style and ingenuity of Torres Strait artists."

Part of Darwin's festival season calendar, the 6<sup>th</sup> annual Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair took place from 10 to 12 August 2012.

Staff from the TSRA's Gab Titui Cultural Centre (GTCC) attended the art fair, along with over 40 other Indigenous art centres and record numbers of visitors from all over Australia.

From Darwin, the TSRA team moved on to Cairns to join Torres Strait art centres Badhulgaw Kuthinaw Mudh, Erub Erwer Meta and Ngalmun Lagau Minaral at the Cairns Indigenous Art Fair (CIAF) from 17 to 19 August at the Cairns Cruise Liner Terminal.

The three day event showcased works from 24 art centres and more than 300 artists.

Both art fairs were a huge success, offering visitors the chance to view and purchase artworks from some of the nation's most remote regions and experience dance performances, see artists at work and to take part in workshops, forums and the annual CIAF Symposium.

This year the TSRA, through the Culture, Art and Heritage Program and the GTCC, was pleased to be able to represent artists from many of the 17 islands of the Torres Strait, including Badu, Erub, Dauan, Hammond, Mer, Moa, Saibai and Thursday Island.

**ENDS**