

Media Release **No. 479**

For release: 2 December 2012

Torres Strait Dance Team to Perform at WOMADelaide 2013

Arpaka Dance Company has been successful in their bid to perform at next year's Australian World of Music, Arts and Dance (WOMAD) festival in Adelaide from 8-11 March.

The festival features performances and workshops by the world's best traditional and contemporary musicians, dancers and DJs and is now set to include a unique exposure to the Torres Strait performed by one of the region's most accomplished dance teams.

Arpaka Dance Company is coordinated by dancer and choreographer, Dennis Newie, of St Paul's Community, and has most recently performed at the Cairns Indigenous Art Fair and internationally at the 2012 Festival of Pacific Arts in the Solomon Islands.

This is the first time that a Torres Strait dance team has been included in the line-up for WOMADelaide. This opportunity has been coordinated and funded through the Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) *Torres Strait Dance Strategy*.

The strategy is focussed on the development and promotion of Torres Strait dance and has produced some fantastic results to date, according to the Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) Chairperson Joseph Elu.

"Since 2011, the Torres Strait Dance Strategy has supported three dance teams to perform at high profile events, including the Cairns Indigenous Art Fair and internationally at this year's Henley Festival in the United Kingdom," Mr Elu said.

"WOMADelaide is yet another opportunity to showcase our Torres Strait culture to audiences from the world over.

"The TSRA is extremely proud to be able to support Arpaka Dance Company and I congratulate them on their achievement".

Each year, WOMADelaide attracts close to 90,000 visitors – over half of these from interstate and international destinations. Details of the event and next year's line-up can be found at <http://www.womadelaide.com.au>.

For more information about the *Torres Strait Dance Strategy*, contact the TSRA Cultural Development Officer on 07 4069 0700.



Caption: The Arpaka Dance Company will represent the Torres Strait for the first time at WOMADelaide next year.

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