

## Tangentyere Council Inc.

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## Tangentyere Artists win funding for Art Centre

16 October 2008

A \$1.3 million grant from the \*Aboriginal Benefit Account will fund the building of an Art Centre for town camp artists in Alice Springs.

Tangentyere Council has received approval from the Minister for Indigenous Affairs Jenny Macklin for the \$1,273,866 grant that will fund the centre.

The new art centre will be built on a block of land in Fogarty Street that's been purchased by the \*\*Indigenous Land Corporation for Tangentyere Artists.

Tangentyere Artists have sought their own art centre to house a workshop and studio, gallery, offices, processing and storage rooms. The group has been housed in a small office space at Tangentyere Council, but the organisation's growth in the past three years has given cause to the current expansion.

Tangentyere Council's Director, William Tilmouth said the new centre will give camp artists some much needed stability for the future.

"Town centre artists are frequently in exploitative relationships with unethical commercial interests or reduced to street sales, exchanging art for cash, grog or drugs, under-valuing their own works, undercutting the legitimate market," said Liesl Rockchild the centres' Art Coordinator.

Ms Rockchild said "Town camp residents are among the most disadvantaged people in Australia, living in the most challenging physical and social conditions".

"Based on the 2007 Senate Inquiry into Indigenous Visual Arts and Crafts, it was a recommendation to have a new art centre in Alice Springs to reduce unethical dealing, she said'.

"They have not previously had access to art support services and representation such as is provided by approximately 45 remote community art centres across Central Australia, she said.

"This new art centre for town camp artists will help Tangentyere Council meet its objective of relieving poverty and destitution of Aboriginal people in the town," said Mr Tilmouth.

Mr Tilmouth said a major benefit of Tangentyere Artists is the provision of culturally relevant activities for people in town camps, which bring social and economic benefits to the artists and the broader community.

The centre will be located close to Tangentyere Council's main office allowing artists to easily access other services provided by the council. It's also within walking distance of Alice Springs' central business district, allowing drop in tourist traffic.

A website is also being developed by Tangentyere Artists to promote online sales.

\* When companies mine on Aboriginal Land they pay royalties to the government, the government then pays an equivalent amount into the Aboriginal Benefit Account for the money to be spent on projects for Aboriginal people.

\*\*The ILC helps Aboriginal people purchase land for their social, economic or environmental benefit.

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