



Darwin Festival, Indigenous Film Gala

## A new Arts and Cultural Policy for the Northern Territory Government

### > THE CONTEXT

The Northern Territory (NT) is unique – in its environment, character, demographics and culture. There is a higher proportion of Indigenous people in the NT than anywhere in Australia. Alongside Darwin there are a number of smaller towns and many remote communities. The public sector is a major employer in the area, alongside defence and tourism.

The NT lacked an arts and cultural policy to frame its priorities and future investment. Without this, opportunities would be lost, and energy would be dissipated.

### > THE BRIEF

The Department of Arts and Museums (DoAM) engaged Positive Solutions to develop an Arts and Cultural Policy that would set out a vision for supporting and enhancing the arts and cultural sector; would form a guide for Government expenditure and effort; and would provide a foundation for lead priorities in the Developing Northern Australia Forward Work Plan.

Expected outcomes of the Arts and Cultural Policy included the identification of trends, opportunities and challenges for the development of the arts and cultural sector; existing and potential partnerships; and possible funding and new forms of financing. There would be a focus on creating opportunities for Indigenous art, as well as the potential to showcase the Territory.

### > OUR APPROACH

Positive Solutions adopted a two-stage methodology for the project. The first involved producing a discussion paper. This paper was developed from reviews of Government reports and policies, and interviews with Government officers and individuals from the arts, education and corporate sectors. The paper was available online and was followed up with focus groups in Darwin, Yirrkala, Nhulunbuy, Katherine, Tennant Creek, Hermannsburg and Alice Springs. Two Indigenous discussions were organised, and written submissions and survey responses received. In the second stage of the project Positive Solutions produced a draft Arts and Cultural Policy, which was then finalised by Government.

### > THE RESULTS

“Vibrant NT” - the NT Arts and Cultural Policy - deals with arts sector development across artforms. There is a strong focus on Indigenous art and culture. The policy was endorsed by the Minister for Arts and Museums in May 2016.

#### SEE ALSO:

- > [City of Perth Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy](#)
- > [Ipswich Arts and Cultural Strategy](#)
- > [Coffs Harbour Cultural Strategic Plan](#)
- > [Armidale Arts and Cultural Strategic Plan](#)