

desart

Culture First.
Supporting Aboriginal Art Centres
of Central Australia



ANNUAL REPORT

2023/2024

*Aboriginal people are advised that this report may contain
names of people who have passed on.*

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CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE



I am pleased to present the 2024 Desart Annual Report on behalf of the Desart Executive Committee.

We are committed to talking up strong for our member art centres and the Aboriginal arts industry. Desart covers many kilometres in different regions across the Northern Territory, South Australia and Western Australia. While we may have our own ceremonies and stories, our own country, there is one foundation on which we all stand and that is Culture First.

Culture comes before anything else, that is what makes our art works so strong and beautiful. It is why people from across the country and the world, in prestigious public institutions and private collections want the work that is produced in our Central Australian Aboriginal Art and Culture Centres. This is what we say in Desart, Keeping Culture Strong!

In our art and culture centres we acknowledge and respect our elders, those that came before us and established the Aboriginal Art Centre movement. We acknowledge our young people who come into the art centre to learn from their elders. These young people are the future of Aboriginal Art and Culture centres.

This year has been another successful year at Desart, we have provided professional development to all those that work in our art and culture centres. We continue to find best practice solutions to every aspect of the work we do. We have advocated on behalf of our members to Territory/State and Federal government agencies.

The Desart Committee will always speak up strongly for our art and culture centres. This has been my first year as Chairperson and I would like to take this opportunity to thank my predecessor Isobel Gorey for her hard work and I would like to acknowledge the other Committee members and thank them for their service.

June Smith
Chairperson

DESART EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE STATEMENT

Aboriginal art and culture centres are unique to Australia. They are places for our cultures (Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal) to meet. Art and culture centres in remote communities are often misunderstood as just small businesses for producing and selling art. They are much more than that. Art and culture centres are places for education, cultural practice and heritage, language and ceremony. They deliver social, cultural, economic and health outcomes in materially disadvantaged communities. They are positive places where we work from the strengths as world experts in our cultural knowledge.

We need a solid co-designed plan and the right resources so that our community-controlled remote Aboriginal art and culture centres will continue to support social, cultural, economic and health outcomes for the next generations.

Excerpt from letter *Strengthening the Remote Aboriginal Art and Culture Sector*, Desart and ANKA Boards joint letter to Minister Burke, 10 September 2023.

(Opposite) Petermann Ranges, Docker River, NT.
Photo by Benjamin Bradley, Desart

CEO'S MESSAGE



Desart programs and activities have been developed and delivered to meet the priorities of our art centre members. Annual events and program activities continue to be delivered by Desart including the annual Desart Art Centre Conference, and Desert Mob. Supporting best practice business activities has continued with the early development and introduction of WHS activities including the offer of 4wd drive training and first aid. The development of additional WHS resources has started with anticipated completion in 2024-2025. These resources include an update of the Art Centre Guidebook, as well as risk management pro-forma frameworks supported by workshops delivered in partnership with NT WorkSafe.

In the reporting period two new art centres were accepted as members of Desart – Inkwareny Artists of Yuelamu (NT) and Ltyentye Apurte Traditional Craft Centre (NT). Warlayirti Artists (Balgo) ceased to be a member of Desart and is now solely supported by ANKA and AACHWA. Desart continued to support both Artists of Ampilatwatja and Papulankutja Artists with operational support as the arts centres transition to new management.

The APYACC media coverage resulting in the SA government establishing a panel to investigate reported allegations of misconduct and the subsequent referral by the panel to ACCC and ORIC required considerable time and resources to address sector concerns and national and local media enquiries.

Desart and ANKA have jointly advocated to the Federal Minister for the Arts regarding the need for a sector plan to address and support art centres strengths and vulnerabilities. In addition to our joint advocacy the respective Boards of ANKA and Desart met in Darwin in early 2024 to discuss ideas and strategies to strengthen the remote community-controlled art and culture sector.

Desart has continued to support and advocate for art centres nationally by producing the 'Art Centre Financial Snapshot Report', published on the Desart website. After consultation with our members an extensive rebuild of the Stories Art Money (SAM) Platform used by 107 art centres across the country has taken place with national onboarding to take place early 2025. Desart continues its delivery of the national Digital Labelling Project which provides marketing training for Aboriginal Artworkers and other art centre staff.

Desart's signature event Desert Mob was successfully delivered in 2023 introducing new program elements that increase awareness, attendance and income generation for our members and the wider Mparntwe community through tourism.

Desart's capabilities have been limited over the past year as a result of challenges we face in recruiting for key positions, including administrative and project management roles. On the other hand, Desart has been able to secure additional funds from OFTA to support the administrative and service functions of the SAM Platform from July 1, 2024. The challenges of recruitment for positions based locally and for very remote art and culture centres continues to impact program development, sustainability and consistency in delivery. In the reporting period Desart assisted eight art centres with recruitment – some of these positions have been advertised multiple times.

Desart continues to be supported by Creative Australia, the Australian Government – Office for the Arts and the Northern Territory Government with funding enabling us to deliver our services, programs and activities supporting our member art centres. In addition, support for elements of the SAM rebuild from the South Australian, Western Australian (through AACHWA) and Queensland (with the support IACA) governments regarding program and service delivery has been welcomed.

Desart acknowledges the support from the Ian Potter Foundation and NT Major Events Company and supporters of Desart, and our member art centres.

Philip Watkins

Chief Executive Officer



OUR MISSION, VALUES AND GOALS

OUR MISSION

We are committed to supporting Aboriginal art and culture centres, which provide autonomy, sustained growth and stability for Central Australian Aboriginal communities.

OUR VALUES

Culture first

We see culture as the priority and foundation for all our work.

Diversity

We respect the cultural diversity inherent to Central Australian Aboriginal peoples and their communities.

Autonomy

We support the independence and autonomy of our art centre members.

Ethical

We work in a manner that is ethical and transparent.

Consultation

We ensure our work is based on consultation with Aboriginal artists and art centre staff.

OUR GOALS

One Mob, One Voice

Goal 1: Represent and be a strong voice for art centres.

Strong Business

Goal 2: Promote best practice management of art centres.

Goal 5: Support art centres to acquire and maintain infrastructure and resources.

My Job, My Learning

Goal 3: Increase employment and career pathways for Aboriginal people in the arts.

Our Art, Our Culture

Goal 4: Promote Central Australian Aboriginal arts and culture.

Artali Festival 2023, Arlpwe Art and Culture Centre.
Photography Benjamin Bradley, Desart



ABOUT DESART

Desart is the **Association of Central Australian Aboriginal Arts and Craft Centres**, a non-profit peak industry body for Aboriginal art and craft centres across Central Australia. Based in Alice Springs, we have been providing advocacy, training and support services for art centres for over 30 years. Established in 1992 and incorporated in 1993, we represent 38 community controlled Aboriginal art centres across a membership area of 1.221 million square square kilometres, servicing over 8,000 artists from 16 language groups and five diverse regions.

Desart is 100% local and Aboriginal led, governed by a 10-member executive committee elected from our membership base. During 2023-2024 we employed 12 staff members.

Desart provides a united voice on behalf of Aboriginal artists and our member art centres, aiming to ensure their recognition and sustainability as a vital cultural, social and economic resource within their communities. Desart helps to support and strengthen art centre business operations, developing and maintaining strong governance, administration and infrastructure.

Our programs are based on the values of culture first, consultation, diversity, autonomy and transparency. Through events like **Desert Mob**, Desart maximises opportunities for our membership to market and promote their art and crafts locally, nationally and internationally, while strengthening their ability to remain autonomous, sustainable Aboriginal businesses.

Desart values collaboration with our membership base and key industry stakeholders. We value our strong relationships with the **Indigenous Art Code, Copyright Agency, Arts Law Centre of Australia**, other **Art Centre Peak Bodies**, and national, regional, and state arts agencies. We nurture established, and create new partnerships with relevant industry organisations to ensure our and our members' objectives are met.

Petermann Ranges, Docker River, NT.
Photo by Benjamin Bradley, Desart

OUR BOARD

Desart was incorporated in 1993 as a non-profit Aboriginal Association under the *Northern Territory Association Act 2003*. Members of Desart are Aboriginal-owned and governed art centres, established as independent corporations and community based enterprises.

The **Desart Executive Committee** comprises ten Aboriginal members, two from each of the five designated regions, who are elected for two years. After this time, positions are declared vacant at the AGM and commence again from the following Board meeting.

DESART BOARD 2023-2024

NAME	REGION	TERM END
June Smith	Central	2025
Hayley Coulthard	Central	2024
Sonya Murphy	Barkly	2025
Joseph Williams	Barkly	2024
Tanya Singer	APY/South	2025
Vacant	APY/South	2024
Walter Jugadai	Northwest	2025
	Northwest	2024
Vacant	NG / West	2025
Sally Butler	NG / West	2024

OUR STAFF

DESART STAFF 2023-2024

NAME	POSITION
Philip Watkins	Chief Executive Officer
Paul Sweeney	Corporate Services Manager
Vacant	Administration Officer
Vacant	Marketing & Communications Co-ordinator
Carmel Young	Strong Business Program Manager
Vacant	Strong Business Artworker Program Officer
Tim Chatwin	Desert Mob Producer
Mel Drew	Desert Mob Assistant Producer
Hetti Perkins	Desert Mob Curator
Aspen Beattie	Desert Mob Assistant Curator
Bronwyn Taylor	SAM Platform Manager
Scott Denholm	SAM Communications & Training Officer
Talitha Kleujer	SAM Rebuild Engagement Co-ordinator (P/T)
Jane Chambers	Digital Label Project Co-ordinator

OUR ART CENTRES

DESART ART & CULTURE CENTRE MEMBERS 2024

APY South

Ernabella Arts
Iwantja Arts
Kaltjiti Arts
Maruku Arts & Crafts
Mimili Maku Arts
Ninuku Arts
Tjala Arts
Tjungu Palya
Walkatjara Art

Barkly Central

Artists of Ampilatwatja
Arlpwe Art and Culture Centre
Barkly Regional Arts
Engawala Art Centre
Nyinkka Nyunyu Art & Culture Centre
Utopia Art Centre

Central

Greenbush Art Group
Hermannsburg Potters
Iltja Ntjarra – Many Hands Art Centre
Keringke Arts
Ltyentye Apurte Traditional Craft Centre
Mwerre Anthurre Artists Bindi Inc.
Papunya Tula Artists
Tangentyere Artists
Tapatjatjaka Art & Craft Centre
Waltja Tjutangu Palyapayi
Yarrenty Arltre Artists
Tjanpi Desert Weavers

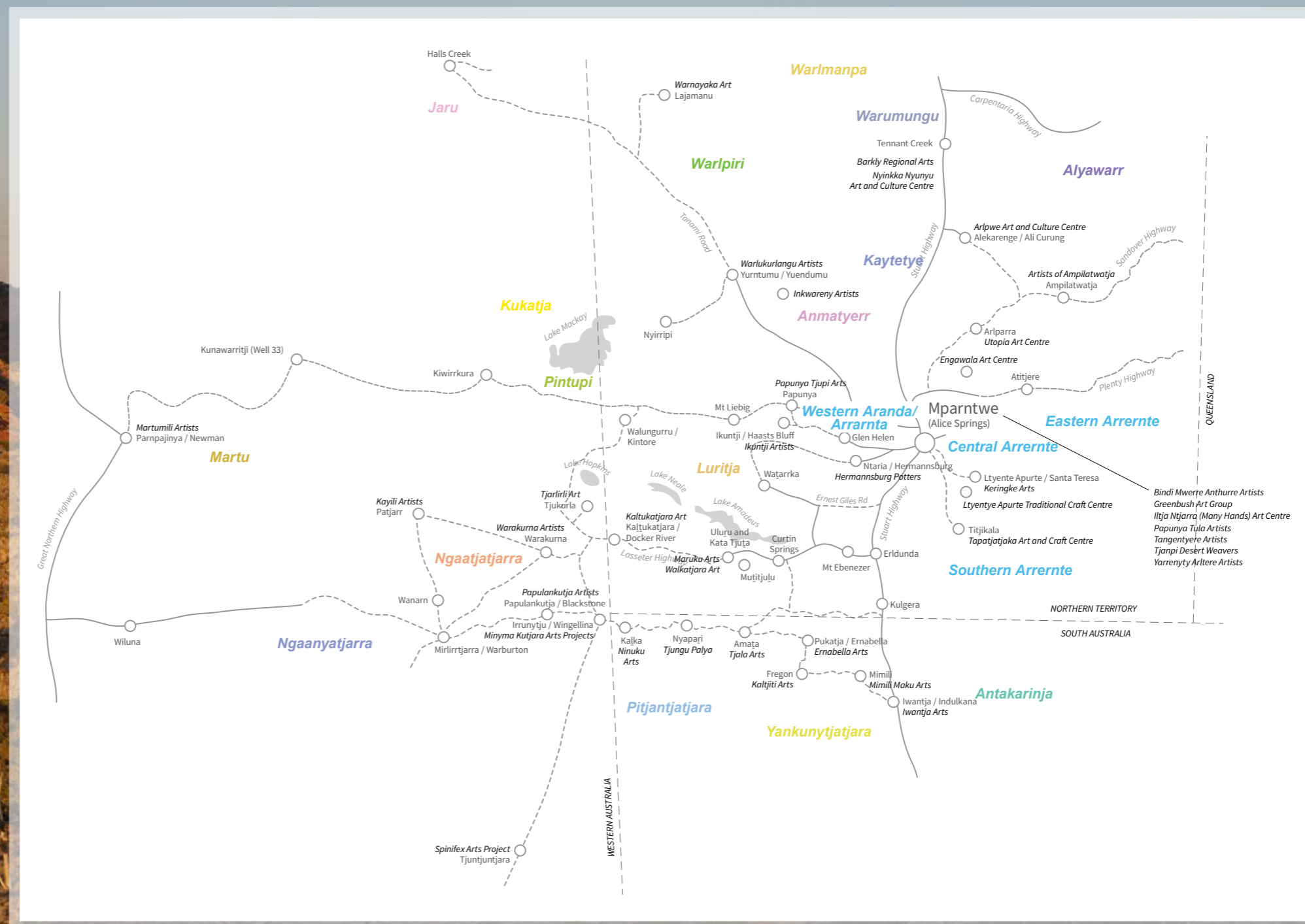
NG West

Martumili Artists
Minyma Kutjara Arts Project
Papulankutja Artists
Spinifex Arts Project
Tjarlirli Artists & Kaltukatjara Art
Tjukurba Gallery
Warakurna Artists

Northwest

Ikuntji Artists
Papunya Tjupi Art Centre
Warlukurlangu Artists
Inkwareny Artists
Warnayaka Art

MAP OF THE MEMBERSHIP



OUR FUNDING



Australian Government

Indigenous Visual Arts Industry Support

The Indigenous Visual Arts Industry Support (IVAIS) program through the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts – Office for the Arts, is Desart’s largest financial supporter. Their enduring confidence in Desart’s ability to not only deliver programs to our member groups, but also to contribute to and deliver programs in the national landscape. Our Operational funds enable a strong core staff to deliver our annual program, **SAM Management** funds have enabled the program to set its sights on the redesign of the database, **SAM Rebuild** funds are well on their way to have a revitalised database to meet the needs of the growing national industry, and the **Digital Label (Pilot) Program** is moving forward from its trial phase, to roll out a National program.



Australian Government



Creative Australia’s **Four Year’s Funding** continues to be the stabilizing force that guarantees, Desart’s annual program of activities is fully funded and delivering the needs of the membership. This program ensures that Desart is focused on the programs themselves, rather than searching for funds to facilitate them.



The Northern Territory Government supported Desart via several departments – Arts NT, Northern Territory Major Events Company and the Community Benefit Fund – funding both operational and Desart’s key annual event, Desert Mob. Arts NT remains a strong supporter of Desart with multi-year **Leading Arts Organisation** funding for key administrative and governance tasks, **Desert Mob** multi-year funded through First Nations Capacity Building and Visual arts and Crafts Strategy. Multi-year enables Desart to deliver the vision set out in the Desert Mob Strategic Plan 22-25.



The Ian Potter Foundation is Desart’s newest philanthropic supporter. It provides funding for the Curatorial Development program, a program that runs throughout the year complementing the Desert Mob program of events. This program is multi-year, 2023-2025.



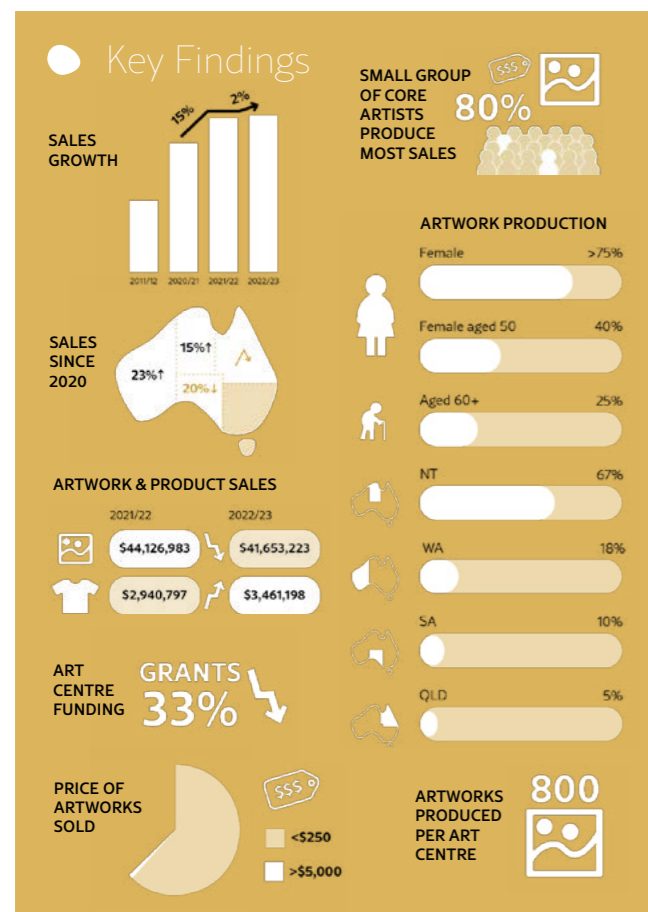
The National Gallery of Australia (NGA) in partnership with Desart, worked together to showcase the output and legacy of Emily Kam Kngwarray through community led initiatives that support the exhibition of the artist’s work. Desart has provided logistical support to NGA staff and provided funding to support artworkers from the Utopia Art Centre engagement with the exhibition. The Emily Kam Kngwarray exhibition will open at the National Gallery of Australia in December 2023.

OUR MAIN ACTIVITIES

The Desart program of activities is based on the principles of capacity building, best practice business models, leadership, and good governance across the three tiers of art centre operations – directors, art centre staff and artists. These principles are put into practice through the provision of professional development opportunities, coordinated workshops with professional facilitators, building networks, support and mentoring. In consultation with Desart members, the content of the Desart program is based on research, review, enquiry and industry best practice. Desart's annual program of activities is guided by the desired outcomes of the continuing Desart Business and Strategic Plans 2021–2025.

OUR MAIN ACTIVITIES

GOAL 1: REPRESENT AND BE A STRONG VOICE FOR ART CENTRES



ADVOCACY

Desart continues to represent art centres and our sector in industry forums including representation on the Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair Foundation (DAAFF) and the Northern Territory's Creative Industries Ministerial Advisory Council (CIMIC).

RESEARCH

In March 2024, Desart produced the annual Financial Snapshot of Art Centres 2004/2005 > 2022/2023 Report. The snapshot summarises the long term financial and production trends of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art and culture centres. The 2024 updated report adds two years of new results (2021/2022) and 2022/2023 to the long-term data, enabling trends and changes to be tracked and contextualised.

desart.com.au/publication/financial-snapshot-of-atsi-art-centres-fye22-fye23

DIGITAL LABELLING (PILOT) PROJECT

Digital labelling (QR codes) on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artwork and products connects artists with audiences, supporting cultural legacy through sharing information

about artists, culture and communities. Digital Labelling provides buyers with confidence their purchase is genuine and proceeds from the sale directly support artists and communities.

Desart's national Digital Labelling Project is being rolled out to 13 art centres supporting them to setup labelling for products and artworks using the SAM Platform. Due for completion by June 2025, the project is funded through the Australian Government.

STORIES ART MONEY (SAM) PLATFORM REBUILD

The new SAM Platform is a complete rebuild of the essential administrative tool for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art and culture centres. It includes improved accounting practices and modern user interface. The new SAM will grow with art centres as technology changes.

This rebuild is made possible through funding by the Australian government who provided \$1.7 million. It is anticipated the new state of the art SAM v2 will be active from late 2024/early 2025.

GOAL 2: PROMOTE BEST PRACTICE MANAGEMENT OF ART CENTRES

DESART STRONG BUSINESS PROGRAM

The Strong Business Program is Desart's art centre capacity building program primarily designed for art centre managers and governing boards. The activities support art centres to be sustainable and have viable best-practice administrative and operational processes.

The program has four focus areas:

1. Individual art centre manager support through provision of professional and personal coaching.
2. Board support through a planned governance program and flexible contingency support.
3. Professional development program for art centre managers delivered through a series of workshops.
4. Legal support – artists and art centres.



PAPULANKUTJA ART CENTRE

Desart oversaw the management of the art centre and provided governance support to the directors of Papulankutja Art Centre, while also providing recruitment support several times in the year, for both the Art Centre Manager and Studio Coordinator roles.

NEW MEMBERS

The Desart Executive approved three new member requests in 2023/24:

- Inkwareny Artists of Yuelamu, NT
- Llyentye Apurte Traditional Craft Centre, Llyentye Apurte, NT and
- Warnayaka Art, Lajamanu, NT (associate member).

OUR MAIN ACTIVITIES

100
ART CENTRE ATTENDEES

24
ART CENTRES

11
INDUSTRY SPECIALISTS

2
FEDERAL FUNDING AGENCIES

7
PRESENTATIONS

ART CENTRE CONFERENCE

The annual Desart Art Centre Conference was held in Mparntwe – Alice Springs in March 2024 and was attended by 100 artists, artworkers, managers/studio co-ordinators and art centre Directors representing 24 Desart member art centres.

Attendees had the opportunity to hear from industry stakeholders including Office for the Arts, Creative Australia (First Nations Arts & Creative Partnerships), Arts Law, and Copyright Agency. Aboriginal artworkers and art centre board members participated in governance, studio practice and ICIP workshops. Creative Australia's Creative Partnerships presented a fund raising workshop. The Digital Labelling Project presented a workshop on marketing and SAM provided two full day workshops for new and experienced SAM users. Updates on current Desart and government industry initiatives were presented including – SAM Rebuild, the Digital Labelling Project, Desert Mob 2024, the establishment of the First Nations Board of Creative Australia and the First Nations Investment Framework, as well as new proposed ICIP legislation. Desart facilitated one on one meetings between art centre staff and industry specialists.



SAM workshop Desart Art Centre Conference 2024. Photo by Paul Sweeney, Desart

Creative Partnerships' fundraising workshop, with Hannah Kothe, Desart Art Centre Conference 2024. Photo by Paul Sweeney, Desart



Nadine Moseley (Tangentyere Artists) with Peter Miller (Arlpwe Art and Culture Centre) Best Practice Studio Workshop, Chapman & Bailey, Desart Art Centre Conference, 2024. Photo by Aspen Beattie, Desart

(Inset) Paula Lyons, (Papulankutja Artists), Best Practice Studio Workshop, Chapman & Bailey, Desart Art Centre Conference, 2024. Photo by Aspen Beattie, Desart

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

SAM workshops

- Introduction to SAM 16 participants from seven art centres
- Advanced users 13 participants from 11 Art Centres.

Creative Partnerships – Fundraising 16 participants from 12 art centres.

Desart Digital Labelling Project – Market Your Product – nine participants from seven art centres.

Artworker Best Studio Practice 14 Aboriginal Artworkers and three Studio staff from 14 art centres.



OUR MAIN ACTIVITIES

RECRUITMENT

The Strong Business Program supported the recruitment of staff for 14 art centres throughout 2023-24. This included advertising vacant positions, interviewing and onboarding, contract and position description review and advice.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Desart provided professional development in four key areas:

- **Vicarious Trauma** – Understanding and Responding to Vicarious Trauma. Attended by 10 participants from seven art centres in four of the five member regions. Delivered by Full Stop Australia.
- **Art Centre Management training** – Five new art centre managers received art centre management training totalling 15 hours delivered by Matrix on Board.
- **Nationally Accredited 4WD training** delivered by CADS to eight art centres with 10 art centre staff receiving their accreditation.
- **Nationally Accredited First Aid training** delivered by St John Ambulance NT to five art centres with six art centre staff receiving their accreditation.
- **Australia Institute of Company Directors training** – One Desart staff.

ART CENTRE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT 4WD TRAINING COURSE

Desart is offering nationally recognised 4 Wheel Drive Training courses presented by CADS in Alice Springs. These 2-day courses will run throughout the year and are available to those Art Centres that do not come under the management of a town or community council.

The aim of these 2-day courses is to provide awareness and practical instruction on safe driving techniques, safe recovery techniques, remote driving and the associated risks, emergency braking and vehicle control on sealed and unsealed roads. Drivers will understand the effects and consequences of speed, time, and fatigue management, and learn correct vehicle maintenance practices.

Day	Date	Region	Availability
Thursday & Friday	11 & 12 January 2024	Barlt	4pm
Monday & Tuesday	15 & 16 January 2024	Barlt	4pm
Monday & Tuesday	15 & 16 January 2024	Barlt	4pm
Thursday & Friday	18 & 19 January 2024	Barlt	4pm
Monday & Tuesday	22 & 23 January 2024	Barlt	4pm
Monday & Tuesday	29 & 30 January 2024	Barlt	4pm

Please contact Strong Business Program Manager cb@desart.com.au with your preferred date and time options.

Email Subject: 4WD

“ The 4WD was really helpful and informative. Thanks for supporting that for us. Appreciated it a lot. ”

MANAGER, HERMANNSBURG POTTERS

First Aid Training

Desart is offering nationally recognised 5-day First Aid Training courses throughout the year for those Art Centre staff whose Art Centres do not come under the management of a town or community council. The Region 30 June participants to confidently manage emergency situations and provide a first aid response to a casualty. It covers the most common first aid injuries and illnesses.

Please contact Strong Business Program Manager Carmel Young at cb@desart.com.au.

Email Subject: First Aid Training with your preferred date and time options.

Region	Week	Duration	Availability
Region 1 St Johns, Alice Springs	10 - 14 Jan	8:30am - 4:30pm	10 places
	17 - 21 Jan	8:30am - 4:30pm	10 places
	24 - 28 Jan	8:30am - 4:30pm	10 places
	31 - 04 Feb	8:30am - 4:30pm	10 places
	07 - 11 Feb	8:30am - 4:30pm	10 places
	14 - 18 Feb	8:30am - 4:30pm	10 places
Region 2 St Johns, Alice Springs	10 - 14 Jan	8:30am - 4:30pm	10 places
	17 - 21 Jan	8:30am - 4:30pm	10 places
	24 - 28 Jan	8:30am - 4:30pm	10 places
	31 - 04 Feb	8:30am - 4:30pm	10 places
	07 - 11 Feb	8:30am - 4:30pm	10 places
	14 - 18 Feb	8:30am - 4:30pm	10 places
Region 3 St Johns, Alice Springs	10 - 14 Jan	8:30am - 4:30pm	10 places
	17 - 21 Jan	8:30am - 4:30pm	10 places
	24 - 28 Jan	8:30am - 4:30pm	10 places
	31 - 04 Feb	8:30am - 4:30pm	10 places
	07 - 11 Feb	8:30am - 4:30pm	10 places
	14 - 18 Feb	8:30am - 4:30pm	10 places
Region 4 St Johns, Alice Springs	10 - 14 Jan	8:30am - 4:30pm	10 places
	17 - 21 Jan	8:30am - 4:30pm	10 places
	24 - 28 Jan	8:30am - 4:30pm	10 places
	31 - 04 Feb	8:30am - 4:30pm	10 places
	07 - 11 Feb	8:30am - 4:30pm	10 places
	14 - 18 Feb	8:30am - 4:30pm	10 places

“ I found the first aid course excellent, really, really helpful and the instructor was great, very friendly and respectful. ”

MANAGER, TJUNGU PALYA ART CENTRE

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT) SUPPORT PROGRAM



Desart provides an Information Technology (IT) support service to all our member art centres. IT services are supported through a service agreement with Alice Onsite IT.

DESART SUPPORT SERVICES PROVIDED TO ART CENTRES 2023-2024.

Governance & Management support. Desart had management delegation for two art centres. Artists of Ampilatwatja and Papulankutja Artists.

Desart/Arts Law Outreach. Three art centres supported with legal advice and drafting of wills during this outreach trip. Tangentyere Artists, Artists of Ampilatwatja and Utopia Art Centre.

Arts Law subscriptions. Desart provides arts law subscription to all 39 members (ended Jan 2024). Desart now provides a subsidy contributing to the subscription.

EASA (Personal) Confidential Counselling Support. 13 art centre staff accessed this support service.

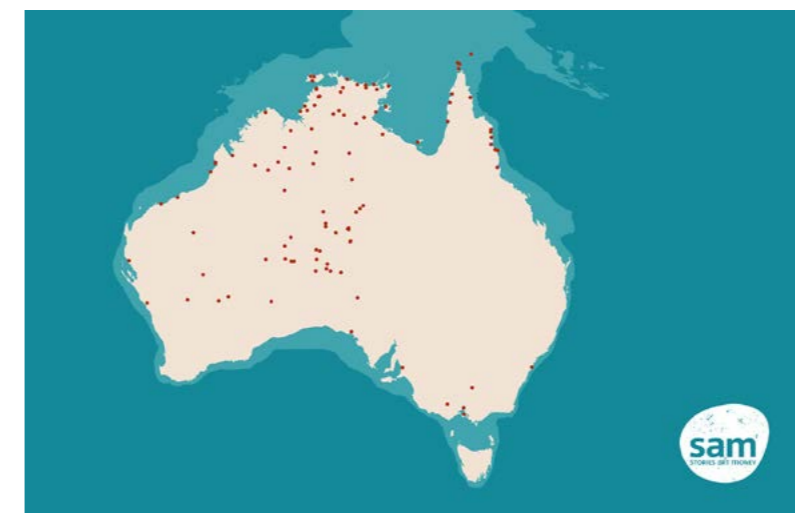
Information Technology support via contracted IT Support Service. 15 Desart member art centres supported with 89 requests for support.

SAM Platform Support. SAM technical Support provided 777 email and/or support request from art centres nationwide (241 hours of time spent on technical support).

STORIES ART MONEY – SAM PLATFORM

Developed, managed and owned by Desart the SAM Platform is an online artwork management system built specifically for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) art centres. The platform allows for the cataloguing of artworks, artists and products and is a Point-of-Sale system that links to artist payments. The SAM Platform has been developed specifically for ATSI art centres.

Currently 107 organisations use the platform with over 350 staff using SAM for their everyday work in their ATSI art centre.



- 1 New South Wales
- 4 Victoria
- 14 South Australia
- 15 Queensland
- 29 Western Australia
- 46 Northern Territory

OUR MAIN ACTIVITIES

389
TRAINING PARTICIPANTS

113
ATSI PARTICIPANTS

141
DESART MEMBERS

237
NON-DESART MEMBERS

777
INSTANCES OF SAM TECHNICAL SUPPORT PROVIDED

SAM PLATFORM TRAINING & SUPPORT

To increase accessibility to SAM training, the SAM Communications and Training Coordinator implemented an online booking system so that art centre staff can select a time that suits them and training can be tailored to an individual and art centre's needs. Online group training was delivered covering entry level and advanced content for all functions in SAM.

In total 108 sessions were delivered to 389 participants. 113 of the participants identified as ATSI, 141 were Desart members, and 237 were non-Desart members.

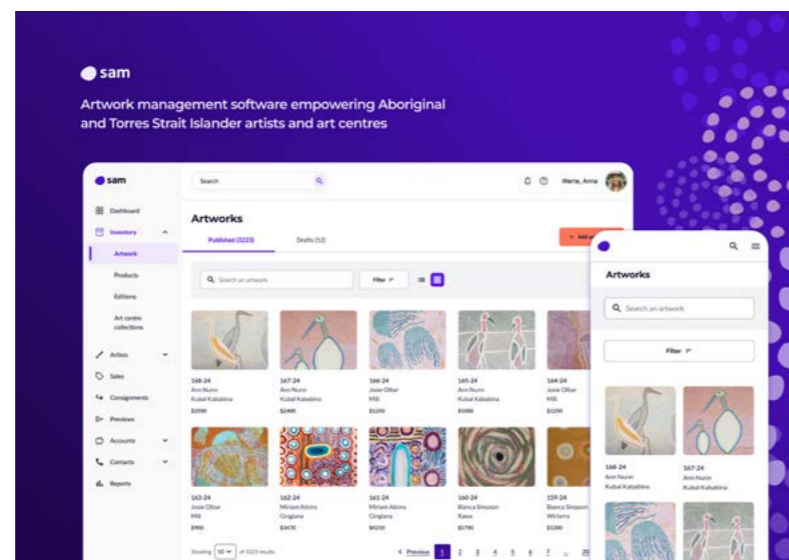
SAM PLATFORM REBUILD

With funding received from the Australian Government – Office for the Arts (OFTA) – Indigenous Visual Arts Industry Support Program (IVAIS), Desart initiated a rebuild of the SAM Platform while maintaining the ongoing delivery of SAM support to art centres.

Over the past year the SAM rebuild has progressed from the discovery stage (identifying new and existing functions that enhance the Platforms functionality and user experience) to the stage where the new SAM has been progressively built and tested, learning management systems incrementally developed and contractual relationships with SAM support services (legal and technical) negotiated.

The Rebuild will be piloted in late 2024 and the rollout to all art centres from late January – mid March 2025.

In 2024, IVAIS – OFTA recognised the significant role the SAM platform holds within the Indigenous art centre sector and have funded the SAM Platform program separately to Desart's IVAIS operational funding. This new funding has provided the opportunity to strengthen the management of the SAM Platform as a business unit within Desart, enabling a restructure in the staffing of the program providing expanded support and training for art centre staff.



Donna McNamara (Hermannsburg Potters) and designers Mae Lu and Brooke Royston from Symplicit. Photo by Bronwyn Taylor, Desart



ENGAGEMENT

- 100+ people.
- 55 different organisations.
- Consultation on all functions in SAM.
- Site visit with Symplicit design team to three art centres – Hermannsburg Potters, Tjanpi Desert Weavers and Tangentyere Artists.
- Co-design across most functions in SAM.
- SAM Advisors Facebook includes 32 members across 25 art centres.

Anita Mbitjana Ratara and Ness Sim (Hermannsburg Potters) working with SAM. Photo by Bronwyn Taylor, Desart

OUR MAIN ACTIVITIES

DIGITAL LABELLING PROJECT.

Desart's national Digital Labelling Project is being rolled out to 13 art centres supporting the setup of labelling for products and artworks using the SAM Platform. Due for completion by June 2025, the project is funded through the Australian Government.

Digital labelling (QR codes) on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artwork and products connects artists with audiences, supporting cultural legacy through sharing information about artists, culture and communities. Labelling provides buyers with confidence their purchase is genuine and proceeds from the sale directly support artists and communities.

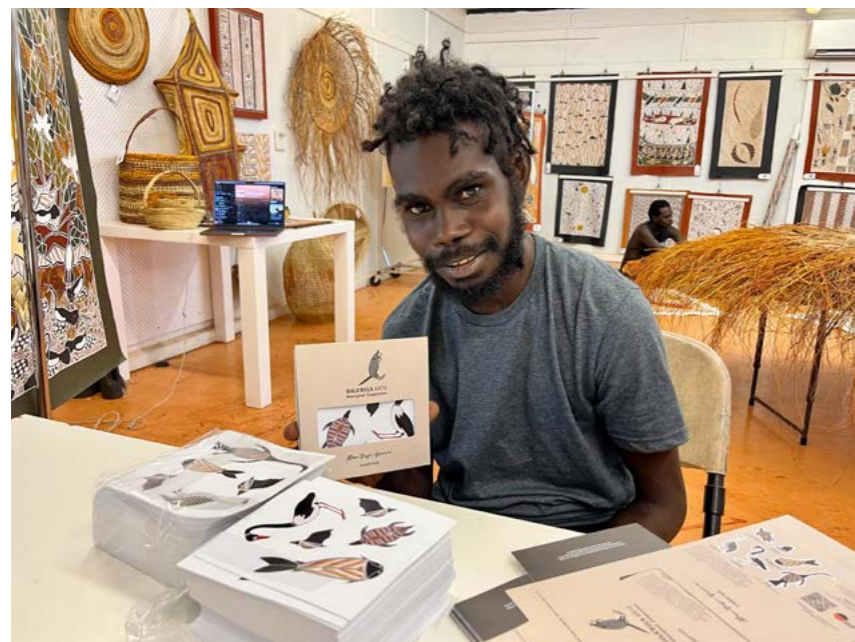
The project aims to support art centres in the set-up of digital labelling and assist with the initial implementation. This will ensure labelling can be sustained as an ongoing art centre process, provide provenance to customers and streamline daily tasks including sales, documenting and labelling artworks and products.

As of 30 June 2024, Desart had delivered Digital Labelling to five participating art centres, a further three were in progress and the remaining five due to start in September 2024, with anticipated completion of all art centres by June 2025. Desart has visited and supported art centres on site, at art fairs and remotely to get digital labelling up and running. To date, thirty-five art centre staff and art workers from eight art centres have participated in the project, twenty-four of which identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander.

The project has provided tailored intensive support to art centre's including:

Business support: Alongside art centre managers, a comprehensive product audit and analysis of costs was undertaken, to help art centre's better understand product viability ongoing, determine artist payments, set product prices and consider future directions and market opportunities for their products. Administration support and assistance with product set up, POS (point of sale) in SAM.

Design & Marketing: Facilitation of the design and production of packaging and marketing materials to elevate, promote and label art centre products and artworks.



Dion Jones, (Bula'Bula Art Centre) packaging up stickers ready for sale. Photo by Jane Chambers, Desart



Equipment & Training: Purchase, install and provide training for staff and art workers in new equipment which supports the art centre's digital labelling needs and improves the art centre's capacity to create supporting visual storytelling content, and streamline sales.

Staffing Capacity: Provide additional staffing capacity to art centres during the project to implement new equipment, systems, train staff and artworkers, edit content and SAM data, manage external service providers and purchasing related to the project.

Natalie McCarthy and Sharlee Clarke (Bindi Mwerre Anthurre Artists) learning to print digital labels from Sam. Photo by Jane Chambers, Desart

DIGITAL LABELLING PROJECT PARTICIPATING ART CENTRES

ART CENTRE	LOCATION	STATUS
Yalanji Arts	Mossman, QLD	completed
Bula'Bula Arts Aboriginal Corporation	Ramingining, NT	completed
Djilpin Arts	Beswick, NT	completed
Erub Arts	Torres Strait, QLD	completed
Juluwarlu Art Group	Ngurrawaana & Perth, WA	completed
Nagula Jarndu	Broome, WA	In progress
Hermannsburg Potters	Ntaria, NT	In progress
Bindi Mwerre Antherre Artists	Mparntwe, NT	In progress
Ernabella Arts	Pukatja, SA	Start September 2024
Ikuntji Artists	Haasts Bluff, NT	Start September 2024
Mowanjum Art and Culture	Derby, WA	Start September 2024
Mangkaja Arts	Fitzroy Crossing, WA	Start September 2024
Kaiela Arts	Shepparton, VIC	Start September 2024

OUR MAIN ACTIVITIES

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SESSIONS

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SESSIONS	ART CENTRES	DESART ART CENTRES	STAFF	ART WORKERS	TOTAL NO. SESSIONS PARTICIPANTS	NO. IDENTIFY AS ATSI
Photography - ipad/SLR	7	2	8	13	21	17
Sales - SAM	7	2	14	8	22	13
Videography/storytelling/ interviewing	3	1	5	2	7	4
Labelling	5		9	4	13	5
Business/admin - product costing, wholesaling, retail	8		6		6	2
Production training (screenprinting)	1			2	2	2
Total Sessions delivered	31	5				



Erub Arts Packaging (TSI) Digital Labelling Project. Photo by Alana Holmberg, Desart



Josie Fly (Hermannsburg Potters) with HBP packaging, Digital Labelling Project. Photo by Zoe Martyn, Desart

GOAL 3: INCREASE EMPLOYMENT AND CAREER PATHWAYS FOR ABORIGINAL PEOPLE IN THE ARTS

PROFESSION DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY 2023-2024

ABORIGINAL/ TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER ARTWORKERS

Best Studio practice & colour theory.	17
Artworker Industry Engagement	4
Textile Conservation Workshop	1
SAM platform Training (onsite)	55
SAM Platform Training (online)	334
Managing Product sales on SAM	13
Photography iPad/SLR	21
Video/Story telling techniques	7
Business /Admin - (product costing)	6
Screen-printing production training	2

OUR MAIN ACTIVITIES

GOAL 4: PROMOTE CENTRAL AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL ARTS AND CULTURE



35
ART CENTRES
REPRESENTED

273
WORKS

(L-R) Philip Watkins, Desert CEO,
Elaine Peckham, Arrernte Elder,
and her granddaughter Kirsty Peckham.
Photo by Rhett Hammerton

DESERT MOB 2023

Desert Mob is an art and cultural event of national significance and a key event for Aboriginal artists, art Centres and their communities of Central Australia, presented on Arrernte Country in Mparntwe / Alice Springs.

2023 is the second year in Desert Mob's 32 year history of full First Nations ownership. A key part of the transition of Desert Mob to First Nations management in 2022 was the establishment of a curatorial framework, with First-Nations curation at its core. For Desert Mob 2023, Hetti Perkins was reappointed as curator and joined by Luritja, Warumungu and Yawuru woman Aspen Beattie as assistant curator. Their collaborative curation and conversations with art centres resulted in the amazing set of works for Desert Mob 2023. The renowned Desert Mob Symposium was reactivated (after a COVID enforced hiatus from programming) alongside increased public programming, presentations and performances.

Desert Mob 2023, held at the Araluen Arts Centre and on the Araluen Cultural Precinct, comprised an exhibition, symposium, marketplace, public programs, and satellite event activations across Mparntwe. Full event details included:

DESERT MOB EXHIBITION.

The Desert Mob 2023 exhibition featured 273 artworks, by 270 First Nation artists representing 35 Desert member art centres. The works represented many forms of contemporary arts practice including painting, ceramics, sculpture, works on paper, weaving and textiles. Works are all new, previously unseen, and available to purchase.

Desert Mob 2023 Exhibition.
Works by Yarrenyty Arltere Artists
and Warlukurlangu Artists.
Photo by Rhett Hammerton

Exhibition outcomes:

- Total number of exhibition artwork: **273**
- Sold: **\$ 450,475.00**
- Sales represented **47.43%** of the exhibition value.
- Sales payments to art centres: **\$ 315,332.50**
- Desert Commission: **\$ 135,142.50**
- **17** works acquired by institutions: Artbank x 8 / National Museum of Australia x 3 / Araluen Arts Centre x 6
- Attendees: **6700**



“ Desert Mob is an amazing event hosted in Alice Springs showcasing the very best of contemporary Aboriginal Art from the central desert. ”

DESERT MOB 2023 SURVEY

OUR MAIN ACTIVITIES



(L-R) Marisa Maher, Selma Nunay Coulthard and Mervyn Rubuntja. Iltja Ntjarra Many Hands Art Centre presentation. Desert Mob 2023 Symposium. Photo by Rhett Hammerton

DESERT MOB SYMPOSIUM

Desart reintroduced the day-long Desert Mob Symposium to programming in 2023, spotlighting presentations by artists and groups from eight Desart member art centres. The presentations consisted of a diverse range of exciting projects, including,

- Ayenge Arweketye – *I am woman* – A new dance work by Toni Lord.
- Present Tense; new directions in Iltja Ntjarra art.
- Tangki and Kukaputju: a short film screening Tjanpi Desert Weavers.
- Kurunpa Kunpu *Strong Spirit*: A Maraku design collaborations.
- Cars, camps and butter chicken: A short film screening. Milpa Tjuntjunjara, Spinifex Arts Project Spinifex Arts Project.
- Ngurra Kutjuwarra *On Country Together*: Warlayirti Artists.
- Ntaria Clay: past and present: Hermannsburg Potters.
- Magpie Goose and Ewyenper Atwatye: Stories to wear.
- Yarrenyty Arltere Artists: *Culture Couture- art meets fashion*.
- Attendees: 400

“ It is the best most unique showcase of Indigenous art, it is a showcase of all new types of art across the desert, it is an opportunity to learn and grow for both viewers and artists, it is a celebration, the art is beyond wondrous and the symposium is always worth it. ”

DESERT MOB 2023 SURVEY

1,438 | RESPONSIBLE FOR BRINGING 1,438 PRIMARY PURPOSE VISITORS TO THE ALICE SPRINGS REGION, WITH THE MAJORITY FROM INTERSTATE (1,118 VISITORS)

8,449 | GENERATED 8,449 DIRECT VISITOR NIGHTS TO THE NORTHERN TERRITORY, WHERE 7,081 OF THESE NIGHTS WERE IN THE ALICE SPRINGS REGION.

\$3.1M | STIMULATED THE NORTHERN TERRITORY ECONOMY ALMOST 3.1M, WITH \$2.7M OF THIS GENERATED BY IN-SCOPE VISITORS.



Desert Mob 2023 Public Programs – Soft Sculpture workshop with Yarrenyty Arltere Artists. Photo by Rhett Hammerton

DESERT MOB MARKETPLACE.

The Desert Mob Marketplace was developed into a fully outdoor event for 2023, with workshop and demonstrations. This enhanced the sense of the event being one of the biggest art fair/markets on Mparntwe’s annual calendar.

- 27 participating Desart member Art centres.
- Marketplace Sales (four hour event) \$650,000.
- 2000 attendees



Carlene Thompson of Ernabella Arts. Ceramics demonstration at Desert Mob 2023 Marketplace. Photo by Rhett Hammerton

OUR MAIN ACTIVITIES



DESERT MOB PUBLIC PROGRAMS

- Ceramics demonstrations – Ernabella Arts
- Soft Sculpture Workshop – Yarrenyty Arlttere Artists
- Hermannsburg Potters studio visit.
- Desert Mob After Dark

DESERT MOB SATELLITE EVENTS.

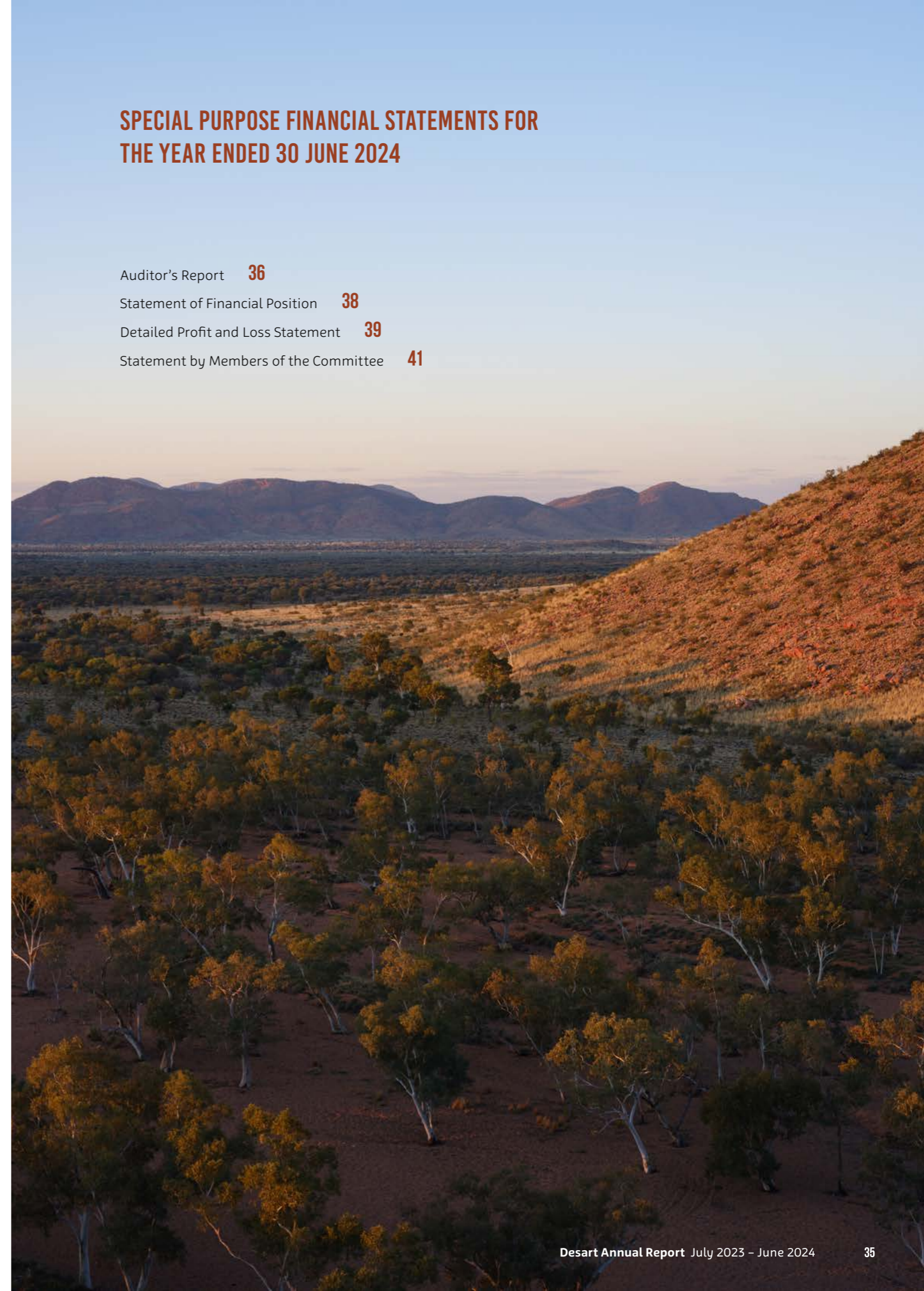
The Desert Mob events provided a catalyst for several Mparntwe-based art centres, galleries and arts organisations to develop programming to coincide with the opening days. In 2023, these included:

- Nurnaka'rinya: Belonging to Us & Ewyenper Atwatye Artists x Magpie Goose POP UP Tangentyere Artists + Yarrenyty Arlttere Artists.
- Kutjungkarrinyi – Gathering Together, Papunya Tula Artists.
- Sun & Shadow, Art of the Spinifex People.
- Bindi Magic Bindi Mwerre Anthurre Artists.
- Ikuntji Fabrics – A Stunning Collection.
- Ampe-kenhe Ahelhe Mparntwe, Childrens Ground Artists.

(Opposite) Petermann Ranges, Docker River, NT.
Photo by Benjamin Bradley, Desert

SPECIAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

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SPECIAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To: The Members of Desart Inc

Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

We have audited the accompanying financial report of Desart Inc, which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2024, the Statement of profit and Loss, Statement of changes in equity, for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the Statement by committee members.

In our opinion the financial report of Desart Inc, has been prepared in accordance with Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012, including:

- (a) giving a true and fair view of the Desart Inc financial position as at 30 June 2024, and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- (b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards and Division 60 the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulations 2013.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the Desart Inc in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulations 2013 and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code. We confirm that the independence declaration required by the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulations 2013, which has been given to the Board of Desart Inc, would be in the same terms if given to the Board as at the time of this auditor's report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of the Board for the Financial Report

The Board of Desart Inc are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulations 2013, Regulations and for such internal control as the Board determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the Board are responsible for assessing the Desart Inc's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Board either intend to liquidate the Desart Inc or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so. The going concern basis of accounting is appropriate when it is reasonably foreseeable that the company will be able to meet its liabilities as they fall due.

The Board are responsible for overseeing the Desart Inc's financial reporting process.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We have conducted an independent audit of the financial report in order to express an opinion on it to the members.

Our objective is to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of members taken on the basis of this financial report.



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CERTIFIED PRACTISING ACCOUNTANTS



LIABILITY LIMITED BY A SCHEME APPROVED UNDER PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS LEGISLATION

Macleod Corporation Pty Ltd is a CPA practice

SPECIAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

We have complied with the competency standards set by Australian Securities & Investments Commission (ASIC). Our audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements, and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance as to whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal controls relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Board.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of Boards' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in the auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of the auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure, and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the Board regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during the audit.

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

In accordance with the requirements of section 60-30 of the ACNC Act. We are satisfied that:

- a) we have received all information, explanation and assistance necessary for the conduct of the audit.
- b) management has kept financial records sufficient to enable the financial report to be prepared and audited.
- c) management has kept other records as required by the ACNC Act.

Paul Gilbert FCPA MBA

Macleod Corporation Pty Ltd

Unit 18, 12 Cowcher Place BELMONT WA 6104

Dated this 11th day of November 2024



LIABILITY LIMITED BY A SCHEME APPROVED UNDER PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS LEGISLATION

Macleod Corporation Pty Ltd is a CPA practice

CERTIFIED PRACTISING ACCOUNTANTS

SPECIAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

DESART INC.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2024

	NOTES	30 JUNE 2024	30 JUNE 2023
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	3	4,114,682.75	4,833,992.26
Trade and other Receivables	4	149,294.62	52,545.63
Inventory - Desert Mob		3,593.75	-
Total Current Assets		4,267,571.12	4,886,537.89
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, Plant and Equipment	5	127,309.22	192,506.87
Total Non-Current Assets		127,309.22	192,506.87
TOTAL ASSETS		4,394,880.34	5,079,044.76
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	6	61,743.73	324,240.07
Employee Benefits		92,107.85	42,621.60
Other financial liabilities	7	2,324,708.34	3,235,706.31
Total Current Liabilities		2,478,559.92	3,602,567.98
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Employee Benefits		69,594.50	59,125.13
Total Non-Current Liabilities		69,594.50	59,125.13
Total Liabilities		2,548,154.42	3,661,693.11
NET ASSETS		1,846,725.92	1,417,351.65
EQUITY			
General Reserve		369,839.00	369,839.00
Desert Mob Reserve		145,117.95	41,110.17
Retained Profits		1,331,768.97	1,006,402.48
Total Equity		1,846,725.92	1,417,351.65

SPECIAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

DESART INC.

DETAILED PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

	NOTES	2024	2023
INCOME			
Trading Profit			
Grant Income	7	2,961,811.27	3,828,937.80
Unexpended Grant brought forward	7	2,634,894.81	1,149,766.26
Unexpended Grants carried forward	7	(1,620,108.34)	(2,634,894.81)
Other revenue		883,836.40	640,826.46
Total Trading Profit		4,860,434.14	2,984,635.71
TOTAL INCOME		4,860,434.14	2,984,635.71
EXPENSES			
Administration Costs		49,782.09	42,326.80
Art Centre Subsidies		23,772.37	10,477.55
Art Centre Support		12,875.30	71,658.34
Art Worker Program		57,331.59	26,535.07
Audit Fees		9,136.36	10,000.00
Bad Debts		-	9,788.13
Bank Fees		28,311.19	14,856.04
Bookkeeping		68,104.26	45,240.00
Cleaning		10,639.32	13,662.92
Conference / Events		33,309.52	45,968.68
Consultant		108,848.39	220,324.29
Depreciation		100,897.65	103,070.21
Desert Mob Expenses		620,589.87	616,588.78
Electricity		6,017.42	5,249.97
Fringe Benefits Tax		42,036.18	39,802.23
Insurance		14,440.62	22,781.36
IT Support		31,883.64	30,065.63
Legal		14,955.00	60,215.98
Marketing & Promotion		59,227.71	49,449.69
Materials & Supplies		25,692.09	22,103.73
Meeting Expenses		75,670.08	95,595.17
Motor Vehicle Expenses		67,875.38	69,205.27
Non Depr Assets <\$5,000		9,439.54	16,903.69
Postage		20,945.54	25,708.75
Printing & Stationary		7,092.04	12,209.94
Program Expenses		257,041.48	91,244.16
Recruitment		4,949.03	3,745.00
Repairs & Maintenance		3,138.45	5,673.57
Rent		127,437.93	116,720.37

SPECIAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

DESART INC.

DETAILED PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

	NOTES	2024	2023
Salaries & Wages		1,034,530.03	773,877.71
Stories Art Money Expenses		1,211,117.16	51,824.76
Subscriptions		38,466.64	19,794.68
Superannuation		110,929.38	69,555.48
Telephone & Internet		8,125.91	8,267.00
Training		9,034.05	4,355.91
Travel Expenses		127,416.66	102,515.54
Total Expenses		4,431,059.87	2,927,362.40
NET PROFIT		429,374.27	57,273.31

SPECIAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

Statement by Members of the Committee

DESART INC

For the year ended 30 June 2024

The directors of the Association declare that:

- the financial statements and notes for the year ended 30 June 2024:
- comply with Accounting Standards as stated in basis of preparation Note 1 and
- give a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of the Association;
- In the directors' opinion, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Association will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the committee and is signed for and on behalf of the committee by:



Committee Member - June Smith



Committee Member - Joseph Williams Tjungarrayi

Dated this 25 day of November 2024



Cover image:

Reggie Uluru
b. 1939 Pitjantjatjara, Yankunytjatjara peoples
Wati Ngintaka (Perentie Lizard Man) 2024
synthetic polymer paint on linen
92 x 107 cm

Photographer: Fiona Morrison, Courtesy of Desert Mob

Wati Ngintaka (Perentie Lizard Man)

I feel proud to teach young ones about country, my Tjukurpa, our learning stories, about the family ancestors, the spirits, how to find waterholes and bush tucker. Show them the right way, the connection to culture how my father Paddy taught me long ago. I now live in Mutitjulu where I paint Wati Ngintaka, Perentie Lizard Man. This is a straight story from the Tjukurpa, and nobody can change that story. This is about the Ngintaka. It's an old story, taught by my father and my grandfather.

Reggie is a well-known traditional owner of Uluru and actively participated in the official handover by the Australian Federal Government in 1985. He served as a ranger in the jointly managed Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park before transitioning to a tour guide role with Anangu Tours. Reggie has imparted his ancestral knowledge to countless visitors, serving as a prominent elder in the Mutitjulu community and a senior singer for ceremonial events at Uluru. He currently resides in Nganampa Ngura Mutitjulunya (Mutitjulu Aged Care). Since he took up painting with Maruku and Walkatjara Arts, the Mutitjulu Community's art centre, he has gained acclaim as a painter.



Situated at Uluru, Walkatjara Art is Mutitjulu Community's art centre, a not-for-profit community enterprise owned and directed by Anangu. The art centre is located within the cultural centre of the Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park in the Northern Territory. Walkatjara Art supports young and senior artists from Mutitjulu who are known for creating vibrant and culturally strong paintings and sculptures that depict local Tjukurpa stories. The art centre offers an environment where local artists can relax and express themselves creatively. The artists of Walkatjara are proud of their art centre and are strong advocates for local culture.

