







# Tjutangku Palyapayi

*"Doing good work for families"*

**Re: Reference for Ruth Graham**

Dear

I am writing to support Ruth Graham's application to RMIT to do a research masters in Textiles.

"Waltja Tjutangku Palyapayi" is an Aboriginal association working with families across the Central region. This is a vast area of 700,000 square kilometres. Some of our communities in this area are the most under privileged and under resourced in Australia.

The main aim of our organisation is to improve living, social and well being issues for remote area families. One of the ways we do this, is with the establishment and ongoing support of community based services Ruth Graham has worked for us on several community projects. Initially, Ruth worked with the women of Kaltukatjara (Docker River, 700 Kms South West of Alice Springs). The women learnt skills in fabric printing and dying using a variety of mediums and textiles. This project was expanded to provide entries in the NT art awards. Their fabric reached the finals and won place in the 'Wearable Art' Category.

Ruth also worked closely with the Kaltukatjara women to produce a manual for Occupational Health and Safety. The manual was designed for Aboriginal Art and Craft Centres.

Ruth gained an understanding of cross-cultural issues during this time. She formed lasting Relationships with the women based on mutual respect and common goals in enterprise development using natural materials.

Ruth demonstrated her ability to be both highly organised and flexible in her project delivery. The work produced by the Kaltukatjara women was colourful and innovative in design. Ruth also made herself available outside of her contract hours. She went with community women to get spinifex to make baskets, plants and roots for ~~dyes~~ <sup>dyes.</sup> and for bush tucker.

We were pleased to have Ruth working for us and have approached her to run textile classes in several of our up coming workshops for youth and for women.

On behalf of Waltja Management Committee, I recommend Ruth Graham to you as a committed student who sets herself high standards and who works steadily towards meeting her goals.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sharijn King". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

Sharijn King

Manager

10 April 2000



The Docker River Garments were shown at;

1. NT Fashion Awards - June 1996 Darwin  
1 st prize in Wearable Art Award
2. NT Expo - July 1996. Darwin
3. Melbourne, The Aboriginal Catholic  
Ministry Fashion Parade 25 August 1996.
4. Darwin Parliament House Fashion Parade -  
August 1996
5. Will be shown in the Alice Springs  
Aboriginal Development Unit Fashion Parade  
November 8 1996
6. Also 1 garment was worn at Adult Learners  
Week in Darwin September 1996
7. On display at the Department of Asian  
Relations Trade and Industry.

Photo's were taken at the Darwin NT Expo,  
Parliament House in Darwin and shown at the  
NT Department of Asian Relations Trade and  
Industry.