



NT GOVERNMENT AWARDS COMPENSATION TO NAMATJIRA FAMILY

The **Namatjira Legacy Trust** together with **Big hART** are absolutely thrilled to announce that the Namatjira Family have reached a settlement with the Northern Territory Government.

"The Namatjira family have worked hard to regain copyright for many years and we are all very thankful that now the Northern Territory Government has stepped forward to compensate the family," said Gloria Pannka, Granddaughter of Albert Namatjira. "We've waited a long time - and many family have passed away in that time, including my cousin Kumantjai L Namatjira who fought really hard for this. I would like to dedicate this achievement to her and her wishes that we move forward and build a strong future for Albert's community, enabling our young people to carry on his legacy."

"We would like to thank the Northern Territory Government for negotiating with us willingly and graciously." said Sophia Marinos Chair of Namatjira Legacy Trust. "This is not just a win for the Namatjira family and community, but for all of Australia - like the transfer of the copyright last year, this settlement is emblematic of what can be achieved, a real reconciling of past wrongs."

"When we began working with the Namatjira family 9 years ago to fight for justice we had hoped we would reach this breakthrough, but it took many more years than expected." said CEO of Big hART Scott Rankin. "Our deepest congratulations to the Namatjira family and the Namatjira Legacy Trust on this huge win, and our warm thanks also to **Arnold Bloch Leibler** who stepped forward to support the legal campaign of Big hART pro bono last year and have been working tirelessly to get this over the line."

Arnold Bloch Leibler's senior partner, Mark Leibler said that while the settlement does not include any admission of legal liability, it is a tangible outcome for Albert Namatjira's descendents and a credit to the Northern Territory Government of 2018.

"The very existence of this settlement recognises that Australia has matured in the last 35 years and can recognise the consequences of past decisions, which have an ongoing impact down the generations" said Mark Leibler.

The Namatjira family lost control of copyright in 1983 when the Northern Territory Government sold the copyright to Legend Press for \$8500.

Big hART's campaign Namatjira Project was an 8 year fight for justice by Big hART alongside the Namatjira family, which saw copyright to Albert Namatjira's works finally returned to the family in October 2017 in an historic moment for all Australians which made international headlines. Copyright is now owned by the family and overseen by the Namatjira Legacy Trust.

Big hART was invited into the Hermmansburg community by the Namatjira family over 9 years ago to help bring about change and renewal. Key components of Big hART's campaign to fight for copyright justice includes the production of acclaimed documentary 'Namatjira Project' which screened on ABC TV in July this year and had over 200 screenings at cinemas and festivals nationally and internationally; the production of an award-winning theatre production which toured nationally; countless exhibitions, facilitating a meeting with the Queen at Buckingham Palace with the Namatjira family and the creation of an independent trust The Namatjira Legacy Trust which was launched at the National Museum of Australia in March 2018.



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Big hART would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the immense work of all members of the Big hART team who've been involved in the Namatjira Project over the years and the team of lawyers who supported the case from Arnold Bloch Leibler including senior partner Mark Leibler, IP partner Zaven Mardirossian, public interest partner Peter Seidel and lawyer Gabriel Sakkal. Big hART would also like to thank all the media who supported our campaign and fought for justice for the Namatjira family.

Albert Namatjira is recognised as Australia's most revered Aboriginal Artist. Interest in Albert Namatjira's work, legacy and the growing Hermannsburg Watercolour movement continues to grow. Big hART's documentary Namatjira Project continues to gain much interest and premiered recently in London, Paris and New York and ATOM has developed a study guide to accompany the film for teachers and students.

The Namatjira Legacy Trust works to build a sustainable future for the Namatjira family and their community. For more information go to www.namatjiratrust.org

For more information on Big hART go to www.bighart.org

Big hART is Australia's leading campaigning arts organisation, telling Australia's most invisible stories to build community and drive change. Working in over 50 communities for 25 years Big hART has won over 45 awards.

Image accreditations:

Painting by Albert Namatjira on previous page:

'Mount Hermannsburg with Finke River Valley', painting by Albert Namatjira, c 1940. Copyright Namatjira Legacy Trust.

Archival photos:

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