Transport Minister Gerry McCarthy today joined Hector the Road Safety Cat to promote National Walk Safely To School Day at Larrakeyah Primary School.

Mr McCarthy said more than 6000 students around the Territory participated in today’s National Walk Safely To School Day activities including 400 students at Larrakeyah Primary School.

“As a community we all want our children to get to and from school safely,” Mr McCarthy said.

“That’s why National Walk Safely To School Day serves as an important reminder to everyone to ensure children don’t come into harms way on their journey to and from school.

“Simple things such as looking both ways before crossing the road and walking instead of running can help prevent children being struck by a car on their way to school.

“Walking to school also promotes a healthy and active lifestyle that may have long lasting benefits through to adulthood, as well as promoting environment-friendly transport.

“Parents, carers and teachers are role models who can encourage children to be physically active and give them the knowledge and confidence to walk to school on their own as they grow older.

“It’s great that so many children around the Territory are today learning about the importance of walking to school safely.

“Hector the Road Safety Cat today played an important role reinforcing road safety messages such as using pedestrian crossings, bicycle and bus safety as well as wearing seatbelts in cars.

“Today also serves as an important reminder to motorists to drive carefully and obey the speed limit when driving near schools or where children might be.”

Activities to help celebrate the 11th annual National Walk To School Safely Day included healthy breakfasts, talks on healthy diet, presentations on road safety by school-based constables and a 50 word competition for students to write about why they walk to school.

The Territory Government’s road safety initiatives in the past two years aimed at children include the launch of the Safer Roads teaching resource, Hector’s visits to child care centres and development of a Hector website, reopening the Parap Road Safety Centre in Parap and the ongoing delivery of school-based road safety education at schools throughout the Territory.

Contact: Edwin Edlund 0401 119 563