Tens of thousands of dollars will be spent on new sporting programs in remote schools this year under the Territory Government’s Sports Vouchers program.

Minister for Sport, Recreation and Racing Matt Conlan said dozens of schools had already signed up with more to come.

“Our Sport Vouchers have proved hugely popular with more than 20,000 children using the vouchers last year, including children in remote schools,” he said.

“The 2014 program has already seen 10 applications approved, representing 14 remote schools across the Territory, with another 20 in draft form.

“In areas with limited access to sporting clubs, remote schools receive $75 of Sport Voucher funding per enrolled student to support school or council-endorsed sporting activities.

“We’re making sure remote children don’t miss out – by bringing sports directly to the schools.”

Some of the new sports programs already approved for 2014 include:

- **Elliott School $5,325**
  To run a 2 week equestrian program at the school catering for all students from pre-school to year 9. Each student will access the program for an hour a day over 10 days.

- **Ramingining School $16,990**
  All students have the opportunity to participate in five gymnastics sessions over five days (facilitated by Gymnastics NT), five swimming lessons over five days (facilitated by NT Royal Lifesaving Society) and participate in a whole school athletics carnival.

- **Warruwi School Council $8,700**
  The school is purchasing bikes and safety equipment to run a bike safety course. Students will be taken out for one hour three times per week in the dry season to practice their skills.

- **Katherine School of the Air $15,675**
  Assist in fuel costs for students to attend sporting events in Katherine and Batchelor throughout the school year.

“These new sports programs are giving children in our remote communities access to the same opportunities as children in our cities,” Mr Conlan.

“They are helping these children lead active and healthy lives and teaching them important lessons about resilience, persistence and leadership – which will benefit their whole community. Our new expanded $200 Sports Voucher scheme which begins after July 1 will mean even more opportunities for our remote children to enjoy.”


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