Minister for Senior Territorians Marion Scrymgour today urged all senior Territorians to have a good time celebrating Seniors Month and to support the events being held throughout the Territory during August.

“Seniors Month 2005 in the NT is bigger and better than ever,” Ms Scrymgour said.

“It has grown from a much smaller celebration that used to happen over a week. This year there are over 90 events in all parts of the Territory celebrating the achievements of older people and in particular, events that keep older people active and connected to society.”

Ms Scrymgour said the NT Government recognised the invaluable contribution made by the elderly, with $40,000 in grants funding to support seniors month this year.

“The best thing about a month like this is that it really puts the focus on our seniors who have contributed so much to the development of the Territory. It is the Government’s chance to say thank you for what you have done and to also recognise your continued participation in making the Territory a great place to be. “

The NT Government earlier this year launched a revamped Pensioner’s Concession Scheme – a pre-election commitment – which makes the scheme more flexible and fairer by allowing pensioners to use their travel component to bring family and friends to the Territory.

FOR DARWIN: Seniors in the Top End can learn to swim, play bowls or bridge or can dust off their dancing shoes. Movie mornings, concerts and ‘Sharing Our Stories’ are planned while on the serious side local libraries are organising an information session on crime prevention and providing internet training, whilst the Red Cross are running sessions on cardio-pulmonary resuscitation.

FOR ALICE SPRINGS: A variety of activities and events are being held in Alice Springs. Seniors can learn self defence, play a round of golf or can dust off their dancing shoes. The Town Council is also running a ‘Senior Centralians Active in Recreation Program’.

For more information on events see the calendars published in local newspapers or visit www.senior.territorians.nt.gov.au.

Ms Scrymgour will launch Seniors Month in Darwin tonight at Deckchair Cinema from 6.30pm.