$65,000 To Help Take Soccer To The Streets

A new Territory Government grant of $65,000 will help take soccer to the streets and people of Central Australia, Sport Minister Karl Hampton announced today.

“Soccer is one of the Territory’s most loved sports and helps build life-long friendships and social skills,” Mr Hampton said.

“The Territory Government is committed to providing opportunities for Territorians to actively participate in sport.

“That’s why the Territory Government is proud to grant Football in Central Australia (FICA) $65,000 towards the purchase of a portable soccer arena and trailer for use in and around Alice Springs.

“Soccer is one of the Territory’s fastest growing sports and this new portable arena will help FICA extend its reach and target youth in particular.

“More than 4000 Territorians play soccer – and 1700 of them are junior players – we must nurture the future of the sport.

“Groups that will benefit from the new $65,000 grant from the 2009-10 Sports Infrastructure Fund include schools, youth services, after school groups and remote communities.”

Mr Hampton said the Territory Government is a strong supporter of sport in Central Australia and has done a lot to help grow soccer in Alice Springs.

“This Government provided a $500,000 capital grant to the Alice Springs Town Council to upgrade Ross Park Oval, soccer’s home in Central Australia,” Mr Hampton said.

“The upgrades included new ground lighting, improved change room facilities and a new clubroom for soccer in Central Australia.

“We have also delivered upgrades to the surface of the main pitch ensuring soccer in Alice Springs has a first class sporting facility.”

Mr Hampton said soccer was added to the Northern Territory Institute of Sport (NTIS) squad scholarship program for the first time this year.

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