Portable Soccer Arenas Scoring Many Goals

New portable soccer arenas are fast becoming a huge hit with youngsters in Central Australia.

Sport and Recreation Minister Karl Hampton said the portable arenas will be used across Central Australia, funded by a $65,000 grant from the Northern Territory Government.

Mr Hampton said the funding helped Football in Central Australia (FICA) buy four portable arenas and a purpose built trailer.

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

“The three inflatable arenas will be used in schools, local communities and camps in conjunction with Tangentyere and the Alice Springs Council.

“And the portable ‘Soccerena’ from Germany will soon be set up in remote communities working with Shires to get more youngsters involved in the World Game.

“More than 4000 Territorians play soccer – 1700 of them juniors – with more than 1350 registered players in Central Australia and this new arena will help nurture the future development of the sport.

“Groups that will benefit from the new portable arena include schools, youth services, after school groups and remote communities.”

Soccer was added to the Northern Territory Institute of Sport (NTIS) squad scholarship program for the first time in 2009 with 30 current scholarship holders.

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