$5 MILLION BOOST FOR SPORT VOUCHER SCHEME

10 April 2014

A typical Territory family with two children will be $400 a year better off thanks to a $5 million expansion of the Country Liberals’ successful Sport Voucher scheme.

“Our $75 Sport Vouchers have proved hugely popular with Territory families and I am pleased to announce that these vouchers are being more than doubled to a total of $200 a year per child,” Chief Minister Adam Giles said.

The Sport Voucher increase is among a package of measures in this year’s Territory Budget aimed at providing financial relief to Territory families.

“Helping families cover the cost of their children getting involved in sport and recreation activities is a part of the Country Liberals Government’s plan to drive down the cost of living,” Mr Giles said.

“Today’s announcement is great news for Territory mums and dads. It will ease the financial burden on families and ensure all Territory kids can play their favourite sport or recreation.

“It’s also great news for our hard working sport and recreation clubs which benefit from the guaranteed cash injection and increased participation numbers that flow from the vouchers.

“The new Sport Vouchers will mean every enrolled, school-aged child across the Territory is eligible to claim $200 a year on sport and recreation activities. For a typical family with two children, that’s a big help of $400 a year to the family budget.

“We’re also expanding the Scheme to cover a wider range of sport and recreation activities including girl guides and scouts, dance, music lessons and other arts and cultural pursuits so children who don’t play traditional sports don’t miss out.

“We know healthy minds are just as important as healthy bodies and our new scheme will get more Territory kids off the couch, off the streets and into organised activities.

“The Country Liberals are serious about driving down the cost of living and our new $200 Sport Voucher Scheme will make our great lifestyle more affordable for families."

Minister for Sport, Recreation and Racing Matt Conlan said the Sport Voucher scheme had been a great success with more than 20,000 children using it last year.

“As a result of the Sports Voucher Scheme we’re seeing more Territory kids involved in organised sport at the grassroots level,” he said.

“It has also allowed schools in our remote Territory communities to access hundreds of thousands of dollars in funding to purchase sporting equipment and implement new sport programs.

“Our Sport Voucher Scheme is teaching children important life skills and helping them lead active and healthy lives, which benefits our whole community.”
The new Sport Vouchers will be increased from $75 to $200, with $100 vouchers issued to parents twice a year in July and January. Under the Scheme, the Vouchers can be used for registration, essential equipment and uniform costs at any registered sporting or recreation club, group or organisation.

Manager of Tennis Palmerston, Sam Giess, welcomed today’s announcement.

“Since August last year the number of junior players here has doubled to 300 and almost all of those kids are claiming their Sport Voucher so it is a great incentive to get the kids involved in the sport,” Mr Giess said.

“Having the Vouchers twice a year will greatly benefit our program and help grow our numbers even further. Parents can also use the Vouchers on equipment sold at our Pro Shop such as tennis racquets and shoes so it’s a win all round for our organisation.”

In remote areas, Sport Voucher funding will be allocated to schools to support new programs and activities. The new scheme is expected to begin on 1 July 2014.

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