The Parramatta Eels have strengthened their ties with their home away from home, supplying new training kits to 100 of the Territory’s rising rugby league stars.

Minister for Sport, Recreation and Racing Matt Conlan said he was delighted to see the NRL club donate the kits to the Northern Territory Rugby League’s Territory Eels Academy as part of its partnership with the Northern Territory Government.

“It’s fantastic to see the Parramatta Eels relish its relationship with the Northern Territory yet again, with the donation of these 100 training kits to some of our best up and coming juniors,” he said.

“The training kits include a Parramatta jersey, singlet and shorts, so the blue and gold will be worn with pride by all the talented players in the Territory Eels Academy.

“Our partnership with the Eels will be hard to miss – with juniors from the Academy right across the Territory receiving the new gear, including Darwin, Katherine and Alice Springs.

“This is just another way the Eels are showing their year-long commitment to the Territory, their home away from home. Throughout the year, the Territory Eels Academy program juniors will receive visits from Eels coaches and players, and will learn what it takes to achieve success on and off the footy field.

“The Country Liberals Government is proud to have signed an historic partnership with Parramatta to secure NRL action in the NT for the next four years and the Academy is another opportunity to flow from that deal.

“This week’s generous donation of the Eels training kits follows several visits Eels players and coaches have already made to Darwin, Katherine, Alice Springs and remote communities in Central Australia for coaching clinics, coaching courses and school visits.

“It is fantastic to see kids from all over the Territory benefitting from this Government’s partnership with the Eels.”

The Territory Eels Academy aims to develop talented juniors in sport and in life and is supported by and feeds into the Northern Territory Institute of Sport’s rugby league program.

The Northern Territory will be showcased next weekend when Parramatta’s Pirtek Stadium hosts Territory Eels Day, featuring the NRL match between the Eels and St George Illawarra Dragons.

The match will be used to urge rugby league fans to ‘Do the NT’ and book a holiday here, as well as promote participation in the 2014 Alice Springs Masters Games from October 11 to 18.

Media Contact: Lisa Andrews 0401 579 963