Gary Higgins
Minister for Sport and Recreation

**Vouchers have Alice Springs families dancing**

11 February 2015

The Minister for Sport and Recreation Gary Higgins today visited an Alice Springs dance academy to see how the NT Government’s Sport Voucher scheme is working.

The Australian Academy of Dance in Larapinta is one of the most popular Alice Springs businesses registered as an activity provider under the scheme.

Mr Higgins said the original scheme was increased last year from $75 once a year to $100 twice a year, and expanded to include cultural and recreational activities.

“As a ballroom dancer myself, I’m delighted the scheme now includes activities such as dance, performing arts and music,” he said.

“Knowing that the NT Government’s investment has helped local families with the cost of providing dance classes, as well as a raft of other sport and recreation, is wonderful. I strongly encourage parents to redeem their vouchers.”

Mr Higgins said the scheme includes Learn to Swim Vouchers for children not yet enrolled in school. The Learn to Swim vouchers are also worth $100 per child twice a year.

“The voucher scheme provides significant financial relief to the household budget and could mean a saving of $400 a year to an average two-child family,” he said.

“Families have certainly embraced the additional support with more than 1580 Sport Vouchers redeemed in Alice Springs since the scheme was increased six months ago, and more than 500 Learn to Swim Vouchers issued since they were launched at the same time.”

Mr Higgins said Sport Vouchers are available for every enrolled, school-aged child across the Territory from preschool to Year 12 in both government and non-government schools in Term 1 and Term 3 through their school.

The vouchers are valid until 31 May each year.

For more information on the Sports Voucher and Learn to Swim Voucher scheme go to: www.sportvoucher.nt.gov.au or call 1800 045 678.

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