Gary Higgins
Minister for Sport and Recreation

**BMX riding strong with the Sport Voucher Scheme**

3 February 2016

School is in its second week and it’s timely to remind Territory families to redeem their Sport Vouchers.

The Northern Territory Government introduced the scheme in 2012 to help families cover the cost of their children getting involved in sport, recreation and cultural activities by providing a one hundred dollar voucher twice a year.

Minister for Sport and Recreation Gary Higgins said more than 41,000 vouchers have been used by families since the program expanded in July 2014.

“In the last six months more than 10,000 vouchers have been used – a great indication that there are more children playing sport and participating in recreational or cultural activities in the NT,” Mr Higgins said.

“But I’d like to see more redeemed and that’s why we’re urging Territory families to take advantage of this great scheme.”

Minister Higgins today spent time at the Jingili BMX track, to see how the program is working.

“It’s great to see BMX thriving in the Northern Territory, over 170 people used their vouchers to take up, or continue the sport since July,” Mr Higgins said.

“In 2014 the Territory Government in partnership with the Australian Government completed the $1.8 million BMX redevelopment in Darwin, providing the only fully-roofed BMX centre in the country. It’s great to see the demand for the sport matches the facilities.”

President of the Jingili BMX Club Jacqui Ascoli said the combination of rising popularity and increased opportunity is making the sport succeed in the Top End.

“It’s an Olympic year in 2016, and with so many high profile riders competing for Australia, it certainly creates a lot of buzz around the sport,” she said.

“Having programs like the Sport Voucher scheme encourages kids to get involved in an exciting sport
they can participate in all year round.”

Minister Higgins reminded families that the vouchers needed to be used by 31 May.

“It’s important to make sure families are getting the most out of this opportunity. Also, if you lose a voucher, remember you can always go online to request a replacement at www.sportandrecreation.nt.gov.au,” he said.

Media Contact:

For Minister Higgins - Lorelei Fong Lim, 0400 165 743
Jingili BMX Club - Jacqui Ascoli, 0466 734 119