Media Release

Gary Higgins
Minister for Sport and Recreation

23 not out – Imparja Cup returns to the Red Centre

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Australia’s largest Indigenous cricket competition, the Imparja Cup begins in Alice Springs this week, with more than 500 cricketers participating across five divisions.

In conjunction with the Imparja Cup, the inaugural National Indigenous Cricket Championships (NICC) begins tomorrow, providing Aboriginal and Torres Islander cricketers more opportunities to reach the top level.

Sport and Recreation Minister Gary Higgins said the high quality tournaments were a huge boost for the Red Centre.

“It’s great to see the Imparja Cup back for a 23rd year and also exciting to see the Australia’s best Indigenous talent competing in the NICC,” Mr Higgins said.

“To be able to host two unique events simultaneously is a fantastic opportunity and puts the Northern Territory on the national stage.

“The Northern Territory government continues to work closely with Cricket Australia, Northern Territory Cricket and the Alice Springs Town Council to bring this great competition to Alice Springs. We have invested $250,000 over three years for this competition – a worthwhile investment.

“The Imparja Cup is a perfect blend of fun, culture and healthy competition, while the National Indigenous Cricket Championships will feature some of the best cricketers in the country.

“Last year, more than 26,000 Indigenous Australians played cricket, with increasing numbers going on to represent their region, state and even Australia.”

Among the activities scheduled for the eight-day cricket tournament, young Australian paceman Pat Cummins and recently retired star Test star Ryan Harris will visit Alice Springs. The fast bowling duo will be joined by women’s Big Bash stars – Briana Binch, Kristy Lamb and Lauren Ebsary.

NT Cricket Chief Executive Troy Watson said the special guests will provide valuable insight into the game.

“Having some of the biggest names in men’s and women’s cricket visit Alice Springs will provide a
great opportunity for our young cricketers to learn from the best,” he said.

“The likes of Pat Cummins and Briana Binch are extremely talented, and know what is required to take the next step in their career.”

The NICC matches run on 8-15 February, while the Imparja Cup will be held on 9-13 February.

Media Contact:

Lorelei Fong Lim, 0400 165 743