Peter Styles, Member for Sanderson
Deputy Chief Minister of the Northern Territory

Sanderson Neighbourhood Activity Centre lighting the way for youths

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The innovative new Sanderson Neighbourhood Activity Centre (NAC) will soon be literally seen in a new light with the tender released today for the construction of sports field lighting at the Sanderson Middle School.

Deputy Chief Minister and Member for Sanderson Peter Styles said the $800,000 project issued under the NT Government’s Boosting Our Economy Package will have far reaching benefits for the Northern Suburbs and the wider Darwin and Palmerston community.

“The Northern Territory Government understands that engaging young people in meaningful activities is a key to addressing anti-social, destructive or dangerous behaviour,” Mr Styles said.

“This lighting project will enable the Sanderson NAC to extend its programs into the evenings and provide healthy, fun initiatives for young people to participate in.

“The NAC will be the hub for community engagement with initiatives involving young people right through to seniors and contribute to the Country Liberals Government’s plan to create a more socially inclusive and cohesive society.

“I truly believe the pilot program being developed at the Sanderson NAC is lighting the way for our youth here in Darwin and Palmerston and elements of it could be beneficial in other centres across the Northern Territory currently facing the issue of youth crime.”

Sanderson NAC Director Paul Wyatt said this project would add even greater shine to the Centre which is already producing fantastic results for young people in the Northern Suburbs.

“Having access to a well-lit area with ample room for evening activities is a game-changer for us,” Mr Wyatt said.

“It will allow us to hold activities such as our very popular bubble soccer in the evenings in a much more pleasant temperature and at a time when youths are most at risk of slipping into negative behaviours.

“Our successful Bike Shed, in partnership with the NT Government’s Men’s Policy Unit which teaches youngsters the mechanics of repairing and building bicycles, is proving that pre-teens, teens and young adults respond extremely well in a respectful, hands-on and fun learning environment.
“It is our aim to also work with our senior citizens and multicultural communities to provide them with the opportunity to partake in everything from fitness groups, computer training, games, sports and social activities as well as an enabling them to work with youth and pass on their wisdom and knowledge through the NAC.”

Sanderson Middle School Principal Liz Veel said the project is very exciting for the students and teachers.

“This will really open up opportunities in terms of the events and activities we will be able to offer our students and their families at our school,” Ms Veel said.

“We are very proud to be the home of the NAC pilot program and we are already seeing the benefits being absorbed within our student body.”

The Sanderson Middle School Oval will be available for hire for sporting and community organisations.

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