Santa Teresa Community swimming pool will be repaired following the approval of a special purpose grant by the Minister for Community Development John Ah Kit.

At the hand-over of the cheque to community members Minister for Central Australia Dr Peter Toyne said the $35,000 grant will go a long way to improving social, sporting and recreational activities in the community.

"The Community swimming pool had been a hub of activity for many years and had brought significant health benefits but fell into disrepair and was emptied after the summer of 2001.

"This special grant funding will meet half the repair cost with ATSIC contributing $15,000 and the remainder to come from the Community store.

"This relatively small amount of money will lend great benefit to the community because the pool is more than just a sporting and social asset, it contributes to a general reduction in eye, ear and throat infections which can be so prevalent on Aboriginal communities," Dr Toyne said.

The Grant came after the Chief Minister visited the community last month and gave her support to the President and Councillors of the Ltyentye Apurte (Santa Teresa) Community Government Council in their bid for funds for the repairs.

The Department of Community Development, Sport and Cultural Affairs arranged for an engineer’s report which indicated that the damage was largely superficial and able to be rectified relatively easily.

The work to be done includes repairing leaks and repainting, and installing new chlorination equipment, pumps and filters.