The Duke of Edinburgh Awards will be expanding its activities into remote areas of the Territory. Community Development Minister John Ah Kit announced at an awards ceremony at Parliament this evening.

“The Duke’s program has been around for some years, and has inspired young Territorians from many centres—but it is really breaking new ground by extending its activities into the bush,” said Mr Ah Kit.

“With a grant from the Government of $55,000, the Duke of Edinburgh Award program will kick off during the next school holidays on Groote Eylandt and Borroloola.

“It will initially involve school holiday activities and community forums which will discuss youth needs and to identify those who want to be involved.

“The Government values programs that give young people the opportunity to develop personal discovery, growth, perseverance and service to the community.

“This expansion of the Duke’s program will promote positive activities in remote communities—the sorts of activities that develop future leaders.”

At the awards, 85 young Territorians were awarded nine Silver and 76 Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

They have achieved their Awards by completing diverse, interesting activities such as Leadership cadet camps at Litchfield National Park, gymnastic competitions in Melbourne, and bush walking in the Katherine region, Kakadu, Litchfield and the Larapinta Trail.

These young Territorians have also participated in a variety of physical activities including Aussie Rules Football, Rugby Union, Rugby League, Cricket, Running, Walking, Dancing, Soccer, Netball, Volleyball, Horse Riding, Hockey, Taekwondo, and mountain bike riding.

They have also been involved in volunteering many valuable hours in community service areas such as gaining their Senior First Aid Certificate, Bronze Star and Bronze Medallion, St John Ambulance Cadet public duties, Aged and Disability care, fund raising, school councils, coaching, and Meals on Wheels.

Many have gained skills in learning a new language, youth leadership, recreational fishing, driver training, learning a musical instrument, computers, cooking, Certificate IV in Workplace Assessment and Training, First Aid competition training, and plumbing and gas fitting.