More than $900 000 will immediately be pumped into child and family support initiatives, Family and Community Services Minister Marion Scrymgour today announced.

The one-off grants – which is new funding - will be spread across the Northern Territory.

They are in line with the NT Government's focus on Giving Kids a Good Start in Life and Strengthening Families and Communities, as identified in Building Healthier Communities strategy.

“Protecting and nurturing, and making sure our children are healthy and happy will not only have positive effects today but for many years to come,” Ms Scrymgour said.

“These grants will help improve children's health and wellbeing by expanding community-based child and family support services.”

Ms Scrymgour said it was an NT Government priority to deliver better health services, support families and work to overcome disadvantage.

“Child care funding is a Federal Government responsibility but the NT Government is not going to sit on its hands and wait for the Commonwealth to come through for this sector,” she said.

“Last week we saw figures which showed the NT Government's child care subsidy has had an enormous impact on childcare accessibility and affordability in the Territory.

“And today I am announcing this huge cash injection into child care. This will make a positive difference in many children's lives by providing support to those in need and giving stronger emphasis to family and community involvement.”

The grants include:

- $300 000 towards creating “Katherine Child and Family Precinct”
- A package of $140 000 to Karama Primary School to increase support services and facilities for families, with a focus on parenting assistance
- A package of $140 000 to Maningrida Primary School to support parenting and children's early learning, particularly for young mothers
- A package of $140 000 to Thamarru Council (Wadaye) to strengthen existing family and children's support care programs – including development of a Families and Communities Room
- A package of $140 000 to Kintore to develop an innovative child care service, including housing, training and evaluation
- $20 000 to support and further develop an early childhood intervention program in Hermannsburg
- $15 000 to fund a visiting playgroup and toy library service in Nguiu
- $15 000 to support an early childhood development program in Town Camps in Alice Springs

“The areas receiving funding have been identified as those most in need, and the funding will work towards further strengthening community and family capacity to care for children,” Ms Scrymgour said.

Ms Scrymgour said the funding to Katherine East Child Care Centre will enable the development and capital funding of a Child and Family Precinct. The precinct will include space for services and activities that support children and families.

“This project will include the development of a ‘families room’ which supplement the redevelopment of the child care service, and will also include training and parenting resource materials,” she said.

Ms Scrymgour said a funding package will be provided to Karama Primary School to increase support services in the area, particularly for disadvantaged families.

“The Karama and Malak area has been identified as an area with a high proportion of low income families that would benefit the most from access to support services and information.

“This package includes funding to provide a dedicated physical space for child and family support activities and services. It also supports local planning and evaluation, and training of people working with children and families in the area.

Ms Scrymgour said the NT Government would continue to provide support to initiatives which strengthen families and help children get a better start in life.