14 August 2002
Commonwealth Games athletes in Darwin

Chief Minister, Clare Martin, will tonight thank Australia’s victorious Commonwealth Games team on behalf of Territorians at a reception in Parliament House.

The Australian team collected its largest medal haul at the Commonwealth Games in Manchester with 206 medals, 8 more than at the 1998 Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur.

Gold medallists Justin Anlezark, Paul Miller, Jane Jamieson, Brent Livermore and Sam Whelan attended the reception as will the Territory’s Jan Palazzi.

Ms Martin pointed out that Anlezark and Miller were both born in Darwin.

"Territorians should be proud how the athletes and officials – including several Territory representatives – performed at the Games," she said.

"Northern Territory Institute of Sport athlete Mark Hickman has secured the number one goal-keeping position for Australian men’s hockey team, the Kookaburras, and helped steer them to a gold medal.

"Jan Palazzi represented Australia in the ladies fours on the lawn bowls green while NTIS hockey coach Terry Evans was an assistant coach to the Kookaburras.

"NT Hockey representative Pip March was a judge at the Games while Territorian Greg Chan coached the Australian Clay Target team led by medallists Michael Diamond and Russell Mark."

Ms Martin said the Territory Government was pleased to support Australia’s Commonwealth Game preparation.

"We assisted the Australian athletics team in July, with their pre-Commonwealth Games camp in Darwin, by provided transport to training at Arafura Stadium and performing minor works to the athletics track," she said.

"That support continued last week with the announcement by Sports Minister John Ah Kit to resurface the entire track at Arafura Stadium."

Ms Martin said the NT Government would welcome future Australian and international teams to use the Northern Territory facilities in their preparations for major competitions, especially in the lead-up to the Melbourne Commonwealth Games in 2006.

"In the past six months, we have allocated money to redevelop Football Park, build a new basketball/netball stadium and resurface the athletics track," she said.

"We are also improving the facilities at Traegar Park in Alice Springs with the new hockey surface currently being installed."