Forty-Seven grassroots sporting clubs and rural regions have shared almost $85,000 to assist their organisations with sport and recreation activities, acting Minister for Sport & Recreation Jane Aagaard said.

"The grants have been shared across all regions of the Northern Territory and across a number of different activities," Ms Aagaard said.

"With $150,000 in this financial year for this grants program, priority is given to initiatives that will increase participation and physical activity."

"Consideration is given to clubs and regions that demonstrate an increase in membership numbers, benefits to the wider community, prior achievement and anticipated outcomes."

The Regional and Club Development grants are allocated twice a year to assist regional areas and Territory clubs with their grassroots activities to encourage sport and recreation opportunities.

Small grants up to $5000 are awarded to support activities such as inaugural sport and recreation events, training and education, IT and communications and projects.

In the first round of regional and club development grants, among the grant recipients are:

- NT Yachting Association ($4000) to provide sailing activities to disabled or physically challenged members of the community. Money will go towards the purchase of specially-design dinghies and access equipment
- The Central Australian Drag Racing Association ($4000) to assist with the purchase of portable crash barriers to improve safety for competitors and officials
- The Multijulu Community ($2000) to assist with the purchase of a laptop computer for the sport and recreation officers to run and promote events
- The Moil Athletics Club ($1300) to assist with "come and try" days in 2003 to attract potential athletes
- Nightcliff Football Club ($1000) to assist with the purchase of portable shade structures to protect spectators from harsh sun conditions
- Nightcliff Amateur Swimming Club ($500) to assist with the purchase of weight equipment to ensure safety standards
- North Australian Motor Sports Club Inc ($495) to purchase a radar gun to check on pit lane speeds, and penalise competitors for infringements
- Palmerston Gymnastics Club ($1000) to assist with a program
to allow youths from disadvantaged backgrounds an opportunity to try gymnastics.

- Angurugu Community Government Council ($3000) to assist with the staging of a junior boxing competition during Youth Week.
- Nhulunbuy Corporation Ltd ($2775) to purchase an oxygen resuscitation unit to allow senior citizens to participate in aquatic activities such as water aerobics and swimming.
- Tiwi Islands ($4300) to assist with the purchase of a portable cricket pitch to develop cricket in the Tiwi Islands and allow play at any given venue.
- Several clubs and regions have receive funding to purchase computers and software to conduct their sport and recreation programs.

The second funding round for regional and club development grants to distribute the remaining funding will close on 31 January.

Funding guidelines can be obtained from the Office of Sport & Recreation on freecall 1800 045 678.