18 December 2002
New era of funding for NT sport promises "greater flexibility for our sports groups"

"The change ushers in a new era of public funding for Territory sport and recreation groups," Mr Ah Kit said.

"This is a new way of doing business and supporting the growth of the sport and recreation industry in the Northern Territory.

"It will provide greater flexibility for our sporting groups – especially those that depend so heavily on volunteers or limited paid staff."

Almost 200 sport and recreation groups each year share more than $5 million in government funding but there was a need to change the grants system to deliver better outcomes in Territory sport.

The grants program will be split into four areas, including a new category to reward the implementation of innovative projects by clubs and organisations that encourage grassroots participation in sport and recreation.

The four areas are:

- funding for NT peak sporting and recreation organisations
- funding for NT rural and remote communities & municipal councils
- funding to build and improve sporting facilities
- funding at the grassroots level to increase participation

Organisations can apply for funding in five key areas - manage their businesses, building their capacity, planning their pathway, developing the community and improving their facilities

"The triennial funding agreement will allow organisations to plan longer-term through funding assurance over three years rather than just one," Minister Ah Kit said.

"This can also apply to the building of sporting facilities where organisations can be guaranteed funding across three years rather than applying for grants each year."

Other changes are:

- incentive funding for organisations to encourage better management and greater financial responsibility
- reporting requirements will be better suited to the nature, size and capacity of organisations avoiding onerous demands on small grant recipients
more emphasis on performance reporting by organisations in achieving their desired outcomes rather than focus only on money acquittal

"We needed a new system to better support the needs of organisations and reflect government direction," Minister Ah Kit said.

"We have a limited amount of funding available and we need to support the best options to strengthen the capacity of organisations and communities to improve their delivery of sport and recreation activities and provide improved opportunities for participation."

Office of Sport and Recreation staff have started a series of workshops with Territory sporting and recreation groups to explain the new model.

The changes see successful grant applicants enter a partnership agreement with the Office of Sport and Recreation, which details mutual obligations of both parties.

"The major aim of the Partnership Agreement is to ensure that the OSR and organisations are working collaboratively towards clearly understood, common goals," Minister Ah Kit said.

"Organisations will report against their key activities through progress reports submitted to the Office of Sport and Recreation."