10 October 2002

Territory Government to pass anti-doping laws

Sport and Recreation Minister John Ah Kit MLA today announced that the Northern Territory will finally join the international fight against drugs in sport.

"The Government acknowledges our responsibility to fight against illicit drug use across the whole community and I want to extend that view to exposing drug cheats in sport," Mr Ah Kit said.

"Although the Northern Territory signed up to the National Drugs in Sport Framework in 1997 nothing further was done by the previous Government to pass legislation in the Northern Territory.

"Currently we have no policies or laws in place that prevent Territory athletes from using drugs to cheat in sport.

"Australia is at the forefront of anti doping strategies internationally and it is equally important that we show our commitment to opposing performance enhancing drugs here in the Territory.

"The Commonwealth Government wants the Territory’s views on the development of a world anti doping code and I have instructed officers of my Department to work with the Commonwealth Government and develop policies and legislation that will complement the code.

"Doping undermines the fundamental values of sport and drug cheats take the fun out of sport for our kids.

"We have a responsibility to contribute to a uniform and consistent approach across Australia in the fight against drugs in sport.”