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ALICE TO HOST NATIONAL INDIGENOUS FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

Sports and Recreation Minister Karl Hampton today announced that Alice Springs would play host to a major national sporting event, the Indigenous Football Festival.

Mr Hampton said the Northern Territory Government would be providing $225,000 over three years to the Football Federation Australia (FFA) for the Indigenous Football Festival to be held in Alice in 2010, 2011 and 2012.

“This funding support will bring the cream of Australia’s indigenous soccer to the centre for the next three years, as part of plans to strengthen the world game in the Territory through partnerships with the FFA and Football Federation NT,” Mr Hampton said.

“Alongside events like the Imparja Cup, hosting the Indigenous Football Festival is another plank in my vision of making Alice Springs the hub of indigenous sport in Australia,” said the Minister.

“With its strong cultural significance and logistical advantages, Alice Springs is the perfect place to hold tournaments that bring together indigenous athletes from all corners of this great country.”

The Northern Territory Government is a strong supporter of Football in Central Australia, recently committing $500,000 to upgrade Ross Park and $65,000 to Football in Central Australia (FICA) for the purchase of a portable football arena for the ‘Street Soccer’ initiative.

“The potential for indigenous football in the Territory is huge, as we saw at last year’s Arafura Games with the popularity of the ‘Borolloola Cyclones’,” Minister Hampton said.
“Later this year football fans will be able to see the Jade Norths and Travis Dodds of the future showing their skills in our own backyard,” said Mr Hampton.

The Minister also acknowledged the great work of FFNT, FFA and FICA with the Indigenous Football Development Program.

“The NT Government supports the world game at all levels and are proud to be working with the FFA to bring Hyundai A-League games to the Territory and as part of their World Cup and Asian Cup bids.”

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