Some arresting action as teams pitch in for charity

By BEN SIMEE

THEY can catch crooks, but can our local cops catch in the slips?

A team of Darwin police officers took to the cricket field yesterday in a competition with the NT Emergency Service, St John Ambulance and the army.

The Pink Stumps Day tournament to raise money for the McGrath Foundation might have been all in a good cause – but with local bragging rights on the line, competition was fierce.

In an intimidating show of force, the police and army sides arrived in armoured vehicles. NT Emergency Service director Andy Warton spoke to the Sunday Territorian as his side was taking the field to defend a paltry score of 59 in the opening game against the police.

“The last time I had a bat on a proper turf wicket was probably 25 years ago,” Mr Warton said.

“We hope to make it an annual event. There’s been a lot of interest (in playing).” Early predictions were correct and the final came down to a grudge match between the police and army, in which the army triumphed.

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It also revealed that only one of the 11 remote clinics to be built or upgraded as part of a $50 million Federal-Territory partnership had been finished.

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Last week Health Minister John Efferink twice dodged direct questions during the week about whether the clinics were on track and on time.

Yesterday he released a bullish statement slamming criticism of the Government’s progress but ultimately admitting the bash clinics were behind schedule.

“I admit it – there are some delays,” he said. “But what would Senator Peris have us do when some of the hold-ups are around the land tenure issues for some of the clinics? And would she like us to trade off the land issues for consultation with the community?”

Would Senator Peris and Labor’s Ken Vowles like us to trade off the land issues for consultation with the community?

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