Giving Cyclone Lam communities a sporting chance

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Three communities affected by Cyclone Lam are to receive sports and recreation equipment through a $10,000 grant by the Northern Territory Government.

Sport and Recreation Minister Gary Higgins said the Member for Arafura Francis Kurrupuwu had taken a keen interest in the Northern Territory Government’s efforts to help the affected communities including the need for sport and recreation activities to help them return to some normalcy.

“Mr Kurrupuwu is very supportive of remote communities receiving support from government and the Department of Sport and Recreation is just one agency helping in the effort to restore the communities of Galiwinku, Ramingining and Milingimbi,” Minister Higgins said.

“In conjunction with the East Arnhem Coordinator, Department of the Chief Minister and the East Arnhem Regional Council, the Department has provided assistance with sport and recreation activities in those communities, along with the grant for equipment.”

“There is a need for sport and recreation activities in the communities,” Mr Kurrupuwu said. “With much destroyed, the young people need something to occupy them and sport and recreation helps rebuild the community.”

East Arnhem Regional Council Director Commercial and Agency Services, Barry Bonthuys said the NT Government contribution was vital in assisting the council to bring their youth, sport and recreation programs back to capacity.

“These programs are an essential part of community life, and the purchase of these resources will help us to restore some normality to our residents,” Mr Bonthuys said.

“Importantly, our focus is on reengaging community youth affected by Cyclone Lam, and providing outlets for families in what are very trying circumstances.”

The Council will be using the grant for sport and recreation equipment such as balls, bibs, goals and mats, pool tables and air hockey tables for all three communities.
ATTACHED PHOTO: Sport and Recreation Minister Gary Higgins, Member for Arafura Francis Kurrupuwu and East Arnhem Regional Council Chief Financial and Operations Officer Kerry Whiting.

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All good sports - Minister Higgins, Mr Kurrupuwu, Mr Whiting