A special Aussie Rules Football carnival gets underway in Nhulunbuy and Yirrkala this weekend.

The carnival is aimed at re-engaging young adults and supporting the restoration of pride and strength in the East Arnhem communities affected by Cyclones Lam and Nathan earlier this year.

“The cyclones caused extensive damage in Galiwin’ku, Ramingining, Millingimbi, Gapuwiyak and a number of East Arnhem homelands,” Chief Minister Adam Giles said.

“The Territory Government made a commitment to those affected to help strengthen community participation in the rebuilding effort including re-engaging young adults to restore pride and strength in the East Arnhem communities.

“This carnival will go a long way towards bringing the communities together.”

The Territory Government is contributing $10,000 towards the carnival. It will be delivered by AFL NT.

The carnival has received generous corporate sponsorship from TIO, Arnhem Land Progress Association (ALPA) and Rio Tinto Alcan as well as in kind support from a range of East Arnhem businesses and organisations.

“There will also be healthy lifestyle sessions across the weekend by Miwatj Health, a community BBQ at Yirrkala on Sunday, a live broadcast through Yolngu Radio of the carnival grand final on Sunday and free entertainment.

“It’s going to be a wonderful weekend for these communities.”
The Chief Minister said the Government continues to make strong progress rebuilding the East Arnhem communities after the devastation from the cyclones and efforts to restore housing and infrastructure are well advanced.

“The Government is focussed on delivering a rebuilding and community development program that will not only restore community infrastructure but also leave a strong legacy of employment, training and participation,” Mr Giles said.

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