

TERRITORY FAMILIES, HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES

# Northern Territory Sport and Active Recreation Strategic Plan: 2021-25



# **Key Functions**

- Community Sport Officers
- Territory Sports Academy
  - Sporting Pathways
  - Workforce Development
- Strategic Partnerships
- Sports Asset and Venue Management

# **Vision**

Celebrated Communities  
Vibrant Places  
Active Territorians

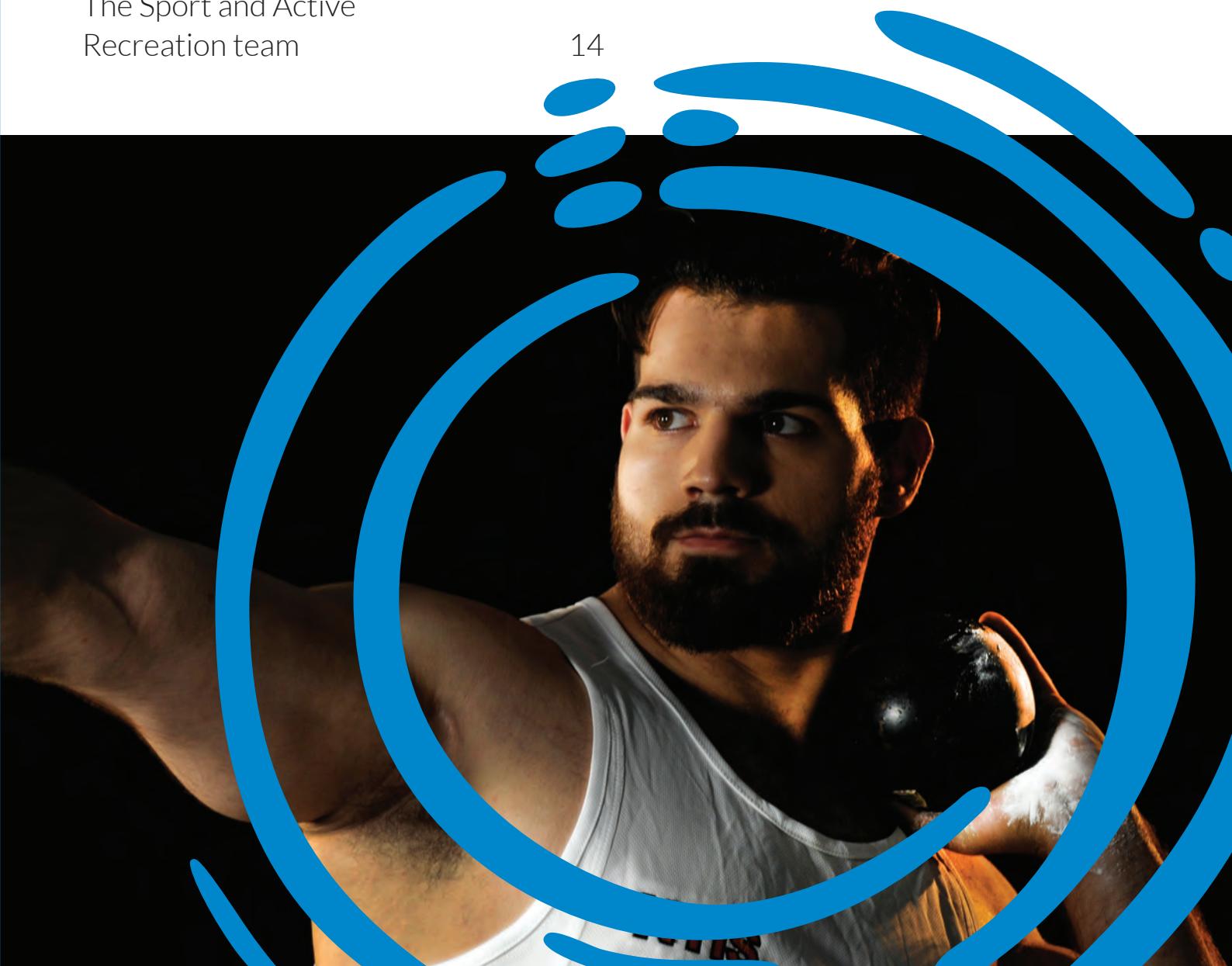
# **Mission**

Partnering to build safe, strong and proud communities where every Territorian is valued and able to participate.



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# Minister's foreword

Sport and Active Recreation has always been an integral part of Territory life. With a diverse population and unique natural environment, the Territory has a real opportunity to maximise participation.

As a Government we have an unwavering focus on how publicly-funded sport can achieve our vision for a healthy and inclusive future: one which celebrates communities, and creates vibrant places to support and encourage active participation in sport and recreation by all Territorians.

We are focused on the real benefits that sport participation brings to people and to society, built around four strategic goals: active participation, places and spaces, achievements, and partnerships. These programs, grants and initiatives are directed to deliver outcomes and our success will be measured against improvements in each area.

We are working to maximise sporting success at home and nationally, to get more people from every background regularly and meaningfully involved in sport because we know that this can have individual and community benefits. It will also deliver a more productive, sustainable and responsible sport sector that knows it is supported by Government to achieve its' goals.

The sporting landscape has changed enormously in the last decade with shifting social patterns

giving rise to new activities while others decline in popularity. Across the nation there is unprecedented pressure on leisure time and families often have new and competing demands. Our new Sport and Active Recreation Strategic Plan 2021-2025 tackles these challenges.

The Strategic Plan puts the participant first, focuses on those least active and, over time, will transform how sport is delivered at the grassroots level across the Territory.

While I don't underestimate the scale of the change and support that is needed across the sector, I also see this as an opportunity to do what we do well, even better. For me, it is the beginning of an exciting journey, but the transformation requires us all to work together so that participation in sport and recreation is both inclusive and easy for everyone.

I am particularly excited that the role of the volunteer is a big part of the Strategic Plan, with a focus on under-represented groups. Sport and recreation activities simply don't happen without volunteers.

The introduction of Community Sport Officers is another exciting initiative to support year-round participation in structured, scheduled programs in regions and remote communities. This will ensure remote and regional Territorians have participation opportunities and that the Department of Territory Families,



Housing and Communities can respond to, and grow opportunities in our regions.

The development and maintenance of appropriate infrastructure in the right places is critical to the success of this Strategy. We have already started the work on this in partnership with the sector and our regions.

Sport in the Territory is part of who we are, we take great pride in our athletes when they represent us, and we all want the chance to participate if we choose. It is this outlook that underpins this Strategy. Our Government, in partnership with the sport and recreation sector, seeks to support and grow opportunity to improve the health and wellbeing of every Territorian through participation.

*Kate.*

**The Hon Kate Worden, MLA  
Minister for Sport**

# CEO message

I am pleased to support the Territory Families, Housing and Communities' first Sport and Active Recreation Strategic Plan.

This informs how we enrich the Territory way of life through sport and active recreation for the next four years. The Strategic Plan has been developed in consultation with our staff and partners.

We have a mission to build safe, strong and proud communities where every Territorian is valued and able to participate.

We also know that sport can be a driver of change, promoting social cohesion and inclusion from grassroots participation to elite competition.

Territory Families, Housing and Communities will continue to work with our key sector partners to create an enriched and active jurisdiction that recognises the tremendous mental, social and physical health benefits and opportunities sport and active recreation provides to all Territorians.

I look forward to working with you all to see the success that we can all contribute to and achieve across the NT.

I am confident the Strategic Plan provides a clear and ambitious roadmap to achieve real impact from our work and celebrate the successes of all Territorians.



**Ken Davies PSM**  
CEO



# At a glance



## Active participation

### Strategic goal

Territorians participate regularly in sport and active recreation to improve their health and wellbeing.



## Places and spaces

### Strategic goal

Places and spaces inspire sport and active recreation participation, improve liveability and are vibrant places where everyone belongs.

## Across the Territory we will:

### Key strategies

- » Promote inclusion of under-represented population groups.
- » Develop initiatives for sport and active recreation to be sustainable and affordable.
- » Deliver programs that activate communities.
- » Enhance regional and remote sport and active recreation programs so they are fun, safe and inclusive for all community members.

### Key strategies

- » Identify and improve the accessibility and availability of sport and active recreation infrastructure, responding to community needs.
- » Prioritise development and investment in multi-purpose community facilities.
- » Develop a long-term sport and active recreation infrastructure masterplan.

### Outcomes

- ✓ Territorians are engaged with, and participate in, community activities.
- ✓ Territorians respect and value diversity and inclusion.



## Achievements

### Strategic goal

Achievements across sport and active recreation are celebrated and inspire the community.



## Partnerships

### Strategic goal

Partnerships are agile, responsible and focussed on optimising the collective impact of Territorians participating regularly in sport and active recreation.

## Across the Territory we will:

### Key strategies

- » Support local, regional, Territory and national organisations to enhance the development of sporting pathways from grassroots to elite levels.
- » Prioritise investment in and recognition of athlete, coach, official and volunteer development programs from grassroots to elite levels.
- » Safeguard the integrity of sport and active recreation.
- » Promote achievements in sport and active recreation and publicise its many benefits.

### Key strategies

- » Deliver grant programs that drive the achievement of our strategic goals.
- » Enable communities to shape the future of sport and active recreation through local decision making and employment pathways.
- » Publicly report our performance to celebrate our success to ensure transparency and accountability.
- » Actively encourage equitable and diverse leadership across the sector.

- ✓ Northern Territory infrastructure has no barriers to social inclusion.
- ✓ The Northern Territory Government supports a diverse range of leisure and outdoor activities.







# Active participation

## Our strategic goal

Territorians participate regularly in sport and active recreation to improve their health and wellbeing.

## Our role

Develop policy, programs and support initiatives of the sport and active recreation sector to support Territorians to be active.



## Key strategies

### Promote inclusion of under-represented population groups.

- » Develop **policies and resources** that increase participation in sport and active recreation for identified target groups.
- » Include sport and active recreation providers in the **NT Seniors Recognition Scheme**.

### Develop initiatives for sport and active recreation to be sustainable and affordable.

- » Collaborate with the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics to implement **transport solutions** so Territorians can engage in daily activities.
- » Explore **innovative ways** for the sector to deliver quality experiences, and share resources, services and facilities to reduce the costs of participation.

### Deliver programs that activate communities.

- » Review the **Remote Sport Voucher program** to inform how we partner with local government and regional councils to support more activities in regional and remote communities that support local initiatives.

### Enhance regional and remote sport and active recreation programs so they are fun, safe and inclusive for all community members.

- » Appoint **Community Sport Officers** who will coordinate and liaise with regional and remote communities and schools to support year-round participation in scheduled programs.



# Places and spaces

## Our strategic goal

Places and spaces inspire sport and active recreation participation, improve liveability and are vibrant places where everyone belongs.

## Our role

Plan, invest in and deliver active places and spaces that respond to cultural and community needs to support Territorians to be active.

## Key strategies

### **Identify and improve the accessibility and availability of sport and active recreation infrastructure, responding to community needs.**

- » Work with local and regional councils and schools to deliver infrastructure that **improves availability and accessibility** for all Territorians to participate in regular, life-long sport and active recreation.

### **Prioritise development and investment in multi-purpose community facilities.**

- » Promote **sector cooperation and coordination of facilities** to deliver efficiencies in resources, operational costs and administration.
- » Partner with the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics and local and regional councils and schools to **manage, support and/or monitor** the Territory's active places and spaces.

### **Develop a long-term sport and active recreation infrastructure master plan.**

- » We will collaborate across all levels of government to design an **infrastructure masterplan** that delivers optimal investment in current and future places and spaces across the Territory.





# Achievements

## Our strategic goal

Achievements across sport and active recreation are celebrated and inspire the community.

## Our role

Provide the highest-quality training and development programs and environments to optimise athlete performance, coaching, officiating and expertise for Territorians.

## Key strategies

### Support local, regional, Territory and national organisations to enhance the development of sporting pathways from grassroots to elite levels.

- » Develop a Memorandum of Understanding with **Charles Darwin University** to leverage their research, rehabilitation services and education programs.
- » **Sport Pathways staff** and **Community Sport Officers** provide specialised services to support local and regional clubs to **identify emerging talent** particularly in regional and remote communities, where junior athletes are entering development pathways.

### Prioritise investment in and recognition of athlete, coach, official and volunteer development programs from grassroots to elite levels.

- » **Workforce Development staff** will support the capability of sport organisations to implement sport-specific **coach and officiating frameworks** and **recognised accreditation**.
- » Develop a **Sport Volunteer Strategy** to better engage, support, train, retrain and recognise our volunteers.

### Safeguard the integrity of sport and active recreation.

- » Implement the **NT Sport Integrity Action Plan** to drive clean, safe and ethical conduct in sport across the Territory.
- » Refresh the **Northern Territory Sport Integrity Network** through information sessions at sector forums and through regional and remote **Community Sport Officers**.

### Promote achievements in sport and active recreation and publicise its many benefits.

- » Collaborate with the Department of Education and the Department of Health to increase children and young people's **physical literacy and participation** in sport and active recreation.
- » **Athlete Scholarship holders** volunteer at local community sporting clubs or junior sport programs to promote the health and wellbeing benefits of grassroots sport development.





# Partnerships

## Our strategic goal

Partnerships are agile, responsible and focussed on optimising the collective impact of Territorians participating regularly in sport and active recreation.

## Our role

Deliver high-quality services through respectful interactions that support the achievement of our strategic goals.



## Key strategies

### **Deliver grant programs that drive the achievement of our strategic goals.**

- » Review and update **funding program guidelines** to support current programs, innovative practices and embrace emerging activities.

### **Enable communities to shape the future of sport and active recreation through local decision making and employment pathways.**

- » Actively listen to and engage in **community-led decision making** to improve participation outcomes and contribute to the sustainability of local programs.
- » Collaborate with government agencies, and employment and training organisations to deliver **accredited courses to support employment**.

### **Publicly report our performance to celebrate our success to ensure transparency and accountability.**

- » Develop an **annual progress scorecard** to monitor outcomes and inform subsequent action plans.
- » Use the **Northern Territory Government Social Outcomes Framework** to measure the health and wellbeing outcomes delivered through investment in sport and active recreation.

### **Actively encourage equitable and diverse leadership across the sector.**

- » Provide the sector with **governance training and other relevant resources** to increase the capability of administrators, both paid and non-paid.

# The Sport and Active Recreation team

Sport and active recreation services are delivered from a central office in Darwin and a network of eight locations throughout the Northern Territory.

## Community Sport Officers

### Enabling active participation across the Territory in regional and remote communities

- » Coordinate government and community investment and programs to improve the health and wellbeing of Territorians.
- » Support clubs and sector partners to implement social or modified sport programs, and identify talented athletes.
- » Partner with local government, regional councils and government agencies to stimulate more activity.
- » Promote sector cooperation and coordination of facilities to deliver efficiencies in resources, operational costs and administration.
- » Collaborate with sector partners to initiate and support delivery of successful programs to support a local, skilled workforce and active Territorians.

## Sport and Active Recreation Strategic Partnerships

### Relational service delivery across the Territory

- » Develop policy and resources to address the factors and barriers that prevent participation, and support the inclusion and achievements of all Territorians.
- » Safeguard the integrity of sport and active recreation through the Sport Integrity Network and supporting Community Sport Officers.
- » Promote sport and active recreation and its many benefits through active cross-government and sector collaboration that drives innovation.
- » Provide the sector with governance training and other relevant resources to increase the capability of sporting organisations and administrators, paid and non-paid.
- » Support Community Sport Officers to deliver programs into communities that activate and maximise participation.





## Territory Sports Academy

### **Workforce Development: supporting the capability of athletes, coaches, officials and volunteers**

- » Support the training and development of sport personnel, paid and non-paid, in line with the Sport Volunteer Strategy.
- » Build the capability of sporting organisations to implement their sport-specific coach and officiating development frameworks, and receive recognised accreditation.
- » Manage grant programs that provide ongoing support and investment in the attraction, development and retention of volunteers across the Territory.
- » Provide the above services and support to local and regional volunteers in partnership with Community Sport Officers.
- » Connect with governments, universities, industry and community to support the next generation of coaches, officials and volunteers.

### **Sporting Pathways: sport services targeting holistic development of athletes**

- » Provide a range of sport, science and sports medicine services targeting holistic development of athletes including delivery of wellbeing, engagement and leadership programs to facilitate success in and out of sport.
- » Provide nationally categorised Territory athletes with scholarships involving direct servicing and funding support for training and competition commitments.
- » Provide nationally categorised Northern Territory athletes access to the National Institute Network performance analysis and funding through a scholarship program.
- » In partnership with Community Sport Officers, support sporting organisations to deliver and monitor athlete and team training and competition programs.
- » Connect with governments, universities, industry and community to support the next generation of sport practitioners and researchers.



## Sports Asset and Venue Management

### **Management of our places and spaces**

- » Collaborate with the sector and government, including local and regional councils, to deliver infrastructure solutions that are responsive to community needs.
- » Through partnerships, deliver optimal investment in current and future infrastructure across the Territory.
- » Manage, support and monitor the Territory's current and future places and spaces.



**NORTHERN  
TERRITORY**  
GOVERNMENT

TERRITORY FAMILIES,  
HOUSING AND  
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