



Speech by

Hon. Phil Reeves

MEMBER FOR MANSFIELD

Hansard Wednesday, 25 November 2009

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

North Queensland Sports Foundation

Hon. PG REEVES (Mansfield—ALP) (Minister for Child Safety and Minister for Sport) (10.22 am): The Bligh government is proud to commit almost \$200,000 over the next two years to sport and recreation activities for children in rural and remote parts of North Queensland. Last month I visited north-west Queensland with the member for Mount Isa, and it was an honour to see firsthand our rural communities embracing the Bligh government's programs which promote healthy lifestyles. This funding of \$197,767 over the next two years for the North Queensland Sports Foundation will assist with the delivery of more sport and recreation programs for children in north and north-west Queensland.

The Bligh government is committed to ensuring all Queenslanders have access to sport and recreation. Our rapidly growing population means it is important we put the grassroots programs in place now. We are planning for the future health of Queenslanders via partnerships with organisations like the North Queensland Sports Foundation, which delivers grassroots sporting activities across rural and remote areas. This funding will allow around 7,500 children from 95 schools to be involved in the foundation's sports education tours, encompassing both sport and recreation activities and the promotion of healthy eating habits.

These education tours involve demonstrations and coaching on a range of sporting codes activity such as rugby league, gymnastics, surf-lifesaving, T-ball, basketball and cricket. These tours are a great opportunity for children across the region to learn a range of game skills in a fun environment while learning healthy eating habits for their future. We remain committed to making Queenslanders Australia's healthiest people. Our partnership with the foundation will certainly help us achieve this goal.

This funding is an excellent example of the Queensland government and the sporting industry working together to improve sport and recreation services for all Queenslanders now and for the future.