

# NEWSLETTER

*"TO LIVE, TO LOVE, TO GROW IN CHRIST"*



## ***Holy Spirit Catholic primary School Prayer***

*O Holy Spirit,*

*Help us to make this school a place where we can Live, Love and Grow in Christ.*

*Give us the Gift of Wisdom so that we may know what is right and wrong.*

*Give us the gift of Courage to say yes to what you ask of us.*

*May we see you today, during our time of work and play*

***Amen.***

## **A Message from the Principal**

It is hard to believe that we are in our third week of term already and that the month of May begins on Friday. A new term marks a chance to reset - whether that means assessing behaviours, making new friends, or diving deeper into learning. Teachers, too, return with carefully planned lessons and a shared commitment to inspire and support every learner.

This term we welcome Kiana as a new student of our school. Her family has relocated from Canberra to be closer to family which is fantastic.

Kiana has settled beautifully into Miss Sinead's class



In addition, Gary Ninneman, our Business Manager who started with us last week. This is a new position at our school and one we are very excited about. Gary comes to us from our system so he understands his role and what needs to be done. Both Gary and I shall work closely together with all building projects, along with day to day events across our school, including Community of Learners and Out of School Hours Care



Tianne Rothwell we welcome also as our Inclusion Support Coordinator (ISC). We first met Tianne as a relief teacher at our school earlier this year and recognised her potential to step into this important role. We are very blessed to have her on our team. Claire Dekuyer as our former ISC has made herself available to assist and work alongside Tianne as she continues to learn more about this.



Thank you Claire for your availability to your former school. Tianne continues to familiarise herself with everyone including students and families she will work alongside. Please be patient, and know she will reach out and connect as required.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank and acknowledge Michelle Donnelly, our former OSHC Coordinator who retired at the end of last holiday program. Michelle joined our team at Holy Spirit in 2023 and we are grateful and blessed for all that she did in this space. Enjoy retirement Michelle and Mark and we know that we will continue to see you around the place.

We now have Chyrra Supero who has joined us as our new coordinator for OSHC. She has continued in the work of Michelle and for that we are grateful. Great things are happening at OSHC under the leadership of Chyrrra and her team.



Some new faces at Out of School Hours Care you may have noticed for which we are excited. Tadhg Makia as a former student of Holy Spirit and currently in Year 12 at O'Loughlin Catholic College. It is always a testament of our school when former students want to come back and work at their primary school.



We also welcome Monet Hunter, Zoe Grant and Chinette Valenzuela who have joined our OSHC team recently. All ladies are a welcome addition and continue to do great things. Monet and Chinette have also taken on Inclusion work within our school which has just started this week.

It is important to celebrate and acknowledge our students and their achievements. Congratulations Grace McLaughlin and Alessio Ayers who have been selected to represent the Northern Territory in AFL. They will travel to Canberra to showcase their skills and talent later this year. Thank you Abby Caldwell, our PE teacher and coordinator who works so closely with our families and students in this space.

Our Year 5 campers and their recent trip to Territory Wildlife Park was a great success. Thank you Josh Hodgson and Heath Baker for making this happen. To our staff campers - Josh, Abby, Heidi, Bree, Hannah along with our parents - Sally, Deni and Lise, thank you for giving your time for this important event. Please check through our newsletter for fun photos of the two days.





As a reminder to you all, our Awards Assembly takes place in Weeks 2, 4, 6, 8 and 10 of each term. This information we share with you always through Toddle and Consent2Go. As we approach our Dry Season, and with the beautiful weather this takes place in our assembly area as opposed to our Multipurpose Room. Please lock into your calendars all dates so that you can make arrangements to be present. Our classroom and specialist teachers will inform you where your child is to receive an award in advance. A reminder that our next Awards Assembly takes place next Thursday 7th May from 8:15am. Our Year 6 students and staff shall facilitate this for us.

An initiative of Lily Thompson, one of our school captains, is the introduction of the, 'You Can Sit With Me' raffle. This is to encourage our children to work hard in class and the playground and show the Making Jesus Real (MJR) way of life. The aim of this initiative is to make our school an even better place to learn and grow. How this works you may ask:

- All staff are provided raffle tickets to nominate students who demonstrate the above. Names are submitted and for weeks four and eight of each term, two tickets will be drawn for students to receive a prize.

I wish to thank Lily's parents - Nicola and Dale who have done so much work and support behind the scenes in making this happen. In addition, Sophie Sparks from 'You Can Sit With Me' who has also provided prizes.



Parents and caregivers play an important role during this transition into a new term. Encouraging open conversations about school experiences, helping establish consistent routines at home, and celebrating effort (not just results) can boost confidence and motivation.

Schools may also introduce new programs, extracurricular activities, or wellbeing initiatives, offering students more ways to connect and grow beyond the classroom. Getting involved in these opportunities can help build skills, friendships, and a stronger sense of belonging.

As we step into the new term, it's worth remembering that progress doesn't have to be perfect. Learning is a journey, and every term brings its own challenges and achievements. With a positive mindset and a willingness to try, students can make the most of the opportunities ahead.

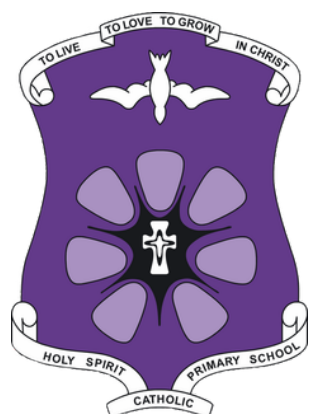
Our recent NAPLAN results are to be celebrated for which our Deputy Principal, Heidi van Bodegraven will provide details below. Each year we continue to achieve improved results which is a testament to our staff here at Holy Spirit and what we have in place.

Let us continue with a productive, engaging, and successful school term for everyone. A reminder that we all work alongside each other to achieve the best possible outcome for our students.

With our May Day Public Holiday this weekend, be sure to rest and enjoy with family and friends.



Happy May Day



*Paula Sellars*

Paula Sellars

**Principal**

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## Year 5 Camp Adventure

Our Year 5 students enjoyed a wonderful camp experience at Territory Wildlife Park filled with adventure, learning and plenty of memorable moments. The camp began with a great morning at the Barra Farm before students travelled to the park to set up camp. For many, this was an exciting opportunity to build independence, work together as a team and experience the challenge of setting up tents.

Students took part in a nocturnal walk and toad hunting on the first evening, before waking to another busy day of wildlife experiences. Friday morning included a snake demonstration, breakfast with the wallabies, pelican feeding and an exciting flight show. It was a fantastic opportunity for students to connect with nature, strengthen friendships and develop confidence through shared experiences, including the classic camp struggle of getting tents and sleeping bags back into the bag!



## NAPLAN 2026

Preliminary NAPLAN results are beginning to provide us with a positive picture of student growth across our school. While individual student reports will be released early in Term 3, we wanted to take this opportunity to celebrate the collective effort of our students, staff and families. These early results reflect the hard work, care and commitment that continue to shape learning at Holy Spirit.

As a community, we can be proud of the progress being made, particularly as we continue to build on being named the top NT primary school for growth in 2025. While we recognise that NAPLAN is only one measure of learning, and that not everyone places the same emphasis on these results, they do offer a reflection of the positive changes, dedication and shared responsibility shown by our staff, students and families. We look forward to continuing this important work together.

## Online portals

Our end of semester reports are sent to families via Toddle in Week 10. If you have not signed in to Toddle, now is great time before the reports are distributed.



## Communication Platforms

To stay up to date download these apps from  
Google Play or the Apple store

Please sign in with the same email address provided to the school

### Toddle Family

The school's main form of communication, calendar and event notification, newsletters, teacher messages and classroom news. Academic reports, term overviews and individual student portfolio work is shared through this program to keep you connected with your child's learning.



Upon first sign in, use school and location is cent

### Consent2Go

Manage and update student medical information. Notification of events, excursions, gala days and permission forms online. Notifications sent to registered email addresses also



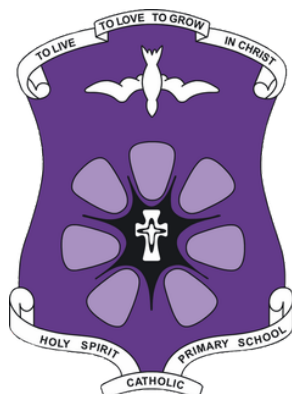
### Xplor

Communications from Community of Learners and Out of School Hours Care



### Quickcliq

Recess and lunch orders for Friday canteen can be ordered until 0900 on Friday mornings. Also accessed via <https://quickcliq.com.au>



Heidi van Bodegraven

**Deputy Principal**

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## *Journey of Easter - Whole School Display*

In the final weeks of Term 1, our school community came together to create a truly spectacular “Journey of Easter” life-size display in our Multi-Purpose Room (MPR). Each class contributed a unique and meaningful representation of a moment from the Easter story, bringing Scripture to life through creativity, reflection, and collaboration.

The purpose of this project was to deepen students’ understanding of the Easter journey while engaging them in prayer and expression of their faith. The results were nothing short of inspiring. The MPR was transformed into a powerful visual journey, allowing students and visitors to walk through the story of Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection.

We were also delighted to welcome many parents and friends to view the display. It was wonderful to hear the many positive comments about the effort, creativity, and understanding shown. This project beautifully reflected our Catholic identity, where we proudly shared and celebrated the Easter story of Jesus together as a community.



## *Stations of the Cross Liturgy*

On the last day of Term 1, our school reverently gathered at Holy Spirit Catholic Church to participate in the Stations of the Cross Liturgy, a significant part of our Holy Week journey. Students and staff approached this sacred experience with great respect and reflection, thoughtfully retelling the final moments of Jesus’ life

The liturgy was a powerful reminder of Jesus’ love and sacrifice, and it was moving to see students engage so deeply with the meaning behind each station. The participation of our senior students, alongside the quiet reverence of all present, created a prayerful and meaningful atmosphere.

We were especially grateful for the strong support from our families and community members, whose presence added to the significance of the occasion. Sharing this sacred time together reinforces the importance of faith within our school and strengthens our connection with our parish community.



## *ANZAC Day Liturgy*

Our school community recently gathered for a meaningful and heartfelt ANZAC Day Liturgy, honouring those who have served and continue to serve our country. We were very proud to see our Defence Force children take on roles within the liturgy, demonstrating pride, respect, and a deep connection to their families' service.

We were honoured to welcome Mr Johnathon Begley as our guest speaker. He shared a thoughtful and poignant reflection, helping our students understand the significance of ANZAC Day in a way that was both meaningful and accessible.

The liturgy provided a time for reflection, gratitude, and prayer, reminding us of the values of courage, sacrifice, and service. It was a proud moment for our school to come together in such a respectful and unified way, acknowledging both Anzac Day and the important role our Defence community plays within our school.

A special thank you also to our wonderful DSM, Mrs Christine Crimmings, for her support with coordinating the ANZAC Day Liturgy.



# Sacrament of Confirmation

A number of our students are currently preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation, a very special and significant step in their faith journey. This preparation is being led by Father Shehan.

Through this process, students are learning about the Holy Spirit, and how it guides and strengthens them to live as followers of Jesus. They are reflecting on their faith, deepening their understanding of the Church, and preparing to fully participate in the life of the Catholic community.

We ask our school community to keep these students and their families in your prayers as they continue their preparation. We look forward to celebrating this important sacrament together and witnessing our students take this next step in their spiritual growth.

Please keep our Confirmation candidates in your prayers as they prepare to be confirmed at our Holy Spirit Catholic Church Casuarina on the 31st May.

Should you require any additional information please contact Father Dave at our Holy Spirit Catholic Church.



## Confirmation Prayer

Lord, You send out Your Spirit to touch the hearts of all people, so that they may believe in You and in Jesus whom You sent. Look kindly on all candidates for Confirmation as they listen to Your voice. Open their hearts to Your Spirit and bring to fulfillment the good work that You have begun in them. As we prepare these children for Confirmation, make each of us an instrument of Your love. Teach us to appreciate what is holy in others, and to be patient with what we do not understand. Deepen our faith in the Gospel and help us to pass it on by our example. We pray that You will continue to guide us and sustain us. Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

## Mothers Day Liturgy & Breakfast Reminder

We warmly invite our families to join us for our upcoming Mother's Day Liturgy and Breakfast, as we come together to celebrate the special women in our lives.

This will be a lovely opportunity to gather in prayer and give thanks for mothers, grandmothers, and carers who show us love, care, and guidance each day.

Date: Friday, 8th of May

Mother's Day Breakfast 7:30am – 8:00am in the courtyard. We warmly invite families to join us for a shared breakfast before the liturgy.

We would also greatly appreciate any Dads and/or Grandads who are available to assist with serving on the morning, to make the day truly special!

Mother's Day Liturgy Commencing at 8:30am in the Holy Spirit Catholic Church. All families are welcome to attend as we come together to celebrate and give thanks.

Photos for PowerPoint We are creating a special slideshow for the liturgy to celebrate the important women in our students' lives. If you would like to be included, we warmly invite you to send through a photo of yourself (Mum or special female caregiver) with your child/ren.

Please send your photo by the Friday 1st of May to our wonderful Mrs Baker at: [natalie.baker@nt.catholic.edu.au](mailto:natalie.baker@nt.catholic.edu.au)

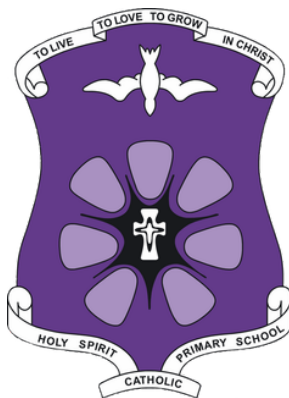
Thank you for all your support. We are really looking forward to celebrating all the wonderful mothers, caregivers, and special people who mean so much to our students.



## Ignite Conference 2026 – Darwin

We are excited to share that the Ignite Conference will be held in Darwin in 2026. Learn more: <https://igniteconference.com.au>

This is a wonderful opportunity for families and older students to experience faith, worship and community.



*Maria La Rocca*

Maria La Rocca

**APRE**

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# School Calendar

Term 2	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Assembly
<b>Week 3</b> April / May 4th Sunday of Easter	27-Apr-26	28-Apr-26	29-Apr-26 Newsletter O'Loughlin Open Day	30-Apr-26	01-May-26	No Assembly
<b>Week 4</b> May 5th Sunday of Easter	04-May-26 May Day Public Holiday	05-May-26 Talent Show Auditions	06-May-26	07-May-26 Awards Assembly	08-May-26 Mother's Day Breakfast & Liturgy	<b>Year 6</b> Room 10 & 12
<b>Week 5</b> May 6th Sunday of Easter	11-May-26	12-May-26	13-May-26	14-May-26	15-May-26 Golf Gala Day Reward Afternoon	No Assembly
<b>Week 6</b> May Ascension of the Lord	18-May-26	19-May-26	20-May-26 Newsletter	21-May-26 Awards Assembly School Board Meeting	22-May-26 Holy Spirit Feast Day Mass Talent Show & basketball game	<b>Year 5</b> Room 11 & 13
<b>Week 7</b> May/June Pentecost Sunday	25-May-26	26-May-26 National Sorry Day	27-May-26 National Simultaneous Story time @10:30am - MPR	28-May-26	29-May-26 Soccer Gala Day Defence Gathering @ 1:30pm	No Assembly
<b>Week 8</b> June 7th Sunday Easter	01-Jun-26	02-Jun-26	03-Jun-26 School Photos	04-Jun-26	05-Jun-26 Awards Assembly	<b>Transition</b> Room 8 & 9
<b>Week 9</b> June The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ	08-Jun-26 King's Birthday Public Holiday	09-Jun-26	10-Jun-26 Newsletter	11-Jun-26	12-Jun-26 Reward Afternoon	No Assembly
<b>Week 10</b> June 11th Sunday in Ordinary Time	15-Jun-26	16-Jun-26 St Johns Open Day (Yr.6)	17-Jun-26	18-Jun-26 Athletics Darwin Region	19-Jun-26 Awards Assembly Reward Afternoon	<b>Year 3 &amp; 4</b> Room 14, 15 & 17

Term 3	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Assembly
<b>Week 1</b> July 15th Ordinary time	13-Jul-26 Staff Professional Development day	14-Jul-26 Students return	15-Jul-26	16-Jul-26	17-Jul-26 Athletics Carnival (Years 3-6 only)	No Assembly
<b>Week 2</b> July 16th Ordinary time	20-Jul-26	21-Jul-26 Daly River (Year 5 & 6)	22-Jul-26	23-Jul-26 Awards Assembly	24-Jul-26 Darwin Show Day Public Holiday	<b>Year 3 &amp; 4</b> Room 14, 15 & 17
<b>Week 3</b> July/August 17th Ordinary time	27-Jul-26	28-Jul-26	29-Jul-26 100th Day of School for Transition	30-Jul-26 AFL Primary School Challenge	31-Jul-26 Cross Country Gala Day	No Assembly
Swimming Programme (1st Week)						

MONDAY



TUESDAY



WEDNESDAY



THURSDAY



FRIDAY

1 Do something kind for someone you really care about

SATURDAY

2 Focus on what you can do rather than what you can't do

SUNDAY

3 Take a step towards an important goal, however small

4 Send your friend a photo from a time you enjoyed together

5 Let someone know how much they mean to you and why

6 Look for people doing good and reasons to be cheerful

7 Make a list of what matters most to you and why

8 Set yourself a kindness mission to help others today

9 What values are important to you? Find ways to use them today

10 Be grateful for the little things, even in difficult times

11 Look around for things that bring you a sense of awe and wonder

12 Listen to a favourite piece of music and remember what it means to you

13 Find out about the values or traditions of another culture

14 Get outside and notice the beauty in nature

15 Do something to contribute to your local community

16 Show your gratitude to people who are helping to make things better

17 Find a way to make what you do today meaningful

18 Send a handwritten note to someone you care about

19 Reflect on what makes you feel valued and purposeful

20 Share photos of 3 things you find meaningful or memorable

21 Look up at the sky. Remember we are all part of something bigger

22 Find a way to help a project or charity you care about

23 Recall three things you've done that you are proud of

24 Make choices that have a positive impact for others today

25 Ask someone else what matters most to them and why

26 Remember an event in your life that was really meaningful

27 Focus on how your actions make a difference for others

28 Do something special and revisit it in your memory tonight

29 Today do something to care for the natural world

30 Share a quote you find inspiring to give others a boost

31 Find three reasons to be hopeful about the future



ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

Happier · Kinder · Together

# School Attendance

Regular school attendance is very important for all our children.

**Every day at school counts!**

Please refer to the table below as an indicator of how repeated absences can have an impact on student learning.

	<p><b>Your child's attendance is above 95%</b></p> <p>They are likely to be a 'Star Performer' as well as an excellent attendee. They will almost certainly achieve the best grades for their ability and have real opportunity in further education, or in the world of work.</p>
	<p><b>Your child's attendance is 90 – 94%</b></p> <p>'GREEN for Go' for good attendance, they are likely to achieve grades that will give them real opportunities to continue their studies, or in the world of work.</p>
10 days missed = 2 weeks absence	
	<p><b>Your child's attendance is 85 – 89%</b></p> <p>'AMBER – Take care' as students will be missing up to 20 days each year and this will make it very difficult for them to achieve their best.</p>
	<p><b>Your child's attendance is 80 – 84%</b></p> <p>'RED light – Be alert' as students are missing so much school that it will be very difficult for them to keep in touch with lessons or with work.</p>
	<p><b>Your child's attendance is below 80%</b></p> <p>'AT RISK – Immediate Action Needed' as students are missing so much time from school that it will be almost impossible for them to keep in touch with lessons or work.</p>

# School Staff - Contact

## Executive staff:

Principal - [Paula Sellars](#)

Deputy Principal - [Heidi van Bodegraven](#)

APRE - [Maria La Rocca](#)

## Classroom teachers:

Transition Room 8 – [Marina Gomez](#)

Transition, Room 9 – [Georgia Tsikouris](#)

Year 1/2, Room 2 – [Maria La Rocca](#) and [Chloe Ting](#)

Year 1/2, Room 4 – [Sinead McDonnell](#)

Year 1/2, Room 6 – [Valerie Roussos](#)

Year 3/4, Room 14 – [Heather Thompson](#)

Year 3/4, Room 15 – [Kimberley Justice](#)

Year 3/4, Room 17 – [Natalie Baker](#)

Year 5, Room 11 - [Heath Baker](#)

Year 5, Room 13 – [Joshua Hodgson](#)

Year 6, Room 10 – [Nikita Jason](#)

Year 6, Room 12 – [Siobhan Webb](#)

## Specialist Teachers:

Indonesian – [Jo Masters](#) and [Putu Warti](#)

The Arts – [Leah Ergos](#)

Physical Education – [Abby Caldwell](#)

Digital Technologies - [Heidi van Bodegraven](#)

## Inclusion Support

Coordinator - [Tianne Rothwell](#)

Practitioner - [Shinobu Hirahara-Henley](#)

## ELC and OSHC

COL Director - [Tanya Dukes](#)

OSHC Coordinator - [Chyrra Suapero](#)

## Administration and Finance

Administration - [Yola Gray](#)

Finance Officer - [Tammy Richards](#)

Finance Officer - [Lee Chong](#)

# Introducing Gary Ninneman - Business Manager

My wife (Kim), two sons and I moved from South Africa to Australia in May 2011. We moved straight to the NT, and we have been living here ever since. Whilst the weather took a bit of getting used to, we have grown to love and appreciate the incredible lifestyle that the Territory provides.

I joined Catholic Education NT in June 2018, where I was appointed as a Finance Officer at MacKillop Catholic College, and became the Business Manager in July 2021. Kim also works for Catholic Education NT, where she is the Compliance Officer for the Registered Training Organisation (CENT RTO).

On 20 April I joined Holy Spirit Catholic Primary School as the School Business Manager, and I consider it a privilege to serve the school community in this brand new role. Apart from my "Business Manager" cap, I am blessed to also wear a "Grandpa" cap - I have five incredible grandchildren - and this is by far the greatest honour, privilege, and joy in my life.

I look forward to meeting you all and saying good day.



# Back to School Voucher

Have you used your child's Back to School Voucher? It is worth \$200 and can be used against the School Fees, Regional Sport Gala Days or uniforms (@CSF Gear)

The Back to School Voucher is valid till the end of Term 3, 18th September, 2026

## YOUNG TERRITORY AUTHOR AWARDS



### Write and create a book and you could be the 2026 Young Territory Author of the Year!

The competition is open to all Territorians 18 years and under residing in the Territory at the time of submitting an entry.

First prize - \$500

Variety NT Runner-up Award - \$250

School Entry prize - \$500

CBCA NT Wow Award - \$200

Enter online, by mail, at any City of Darwin Library or your local library. **Entries close 27 August 2026.**

To find out more, go to: [darwin.nt.gov.au/ytaa](http://darwin.nt.gov.au/ytaa) or scan the QR code.



SCAN ME



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Term 2, 2026

# eSafety parents and carers webinars

Join eSafety's free live webinars for parents and carers.

## Term 2 topics:

- **Navigating screen time: tools for today's families.** Suitable for parents and carers of young people in primary and lower secondary school.
- **Exploring the online experiences of boys and young men.** Suitable for parents and carers of young people in upper primary and secondary school.
- **How AI is influencing new online risks for children and young people.** Suitable for parents and carers of young people in primary and secondary school.
- **The trust trap: navigating friendships, pressure and manipulation online.** This webinar is designed to support shared viewing and conversations between parents/carers and young people (13+).



For more information and to register now: [eSafety.gov.au/parents/webinars](https://esafety.gov.au/parents/webinars)



eSafety Commissioner

eSafety.gov.au

## BACKYARD CRICKET, JUST FOR THE GIRLS!

This 1-hour Girls-Only Social Smash is a fun, social twist on cricket - easy to pick up and perfect for playing with friends anytime, anywhere.

Build your skills through backyard-style cricket games, including a splash of colour and plenty of fun challenges along the way!

**DATES:** Tues 5<sup>th</sup> May - Tues 26<sup>th</sup> May  
(Played Every Tuesday Night)

**WHO:** Girls aged 5-12 yrs.

**TIME:** 5-6pm

**Location:** DXC Arena, Marrara

**COST:** \$25 for all 4-weeks

**GEAR:** All provided, just bring a drink bottle

REGISTER HERE



NORTHERN TERRITORY  
CRICKET