

## Media Release

### ***'Addicted to Fishing not Drugs' program launched in Western Australia***

The Federal Minister for Fisheries, Forestry and Conservation Eric Abetz today launched a new program to assist recreational fishing.

The program is called "Addicted to Fishing not Drugs" and will result in thousands of young Western Australians being taught the right ways to fish and to believe in themselves and their abilities.

Senator Abetz said "Last year the Australian government made a commitment of \$15 million over three years to assist the development of recreational fishing through the Recreational Fishing Community Grants Programme. Recfishwest was successful in gaining a grant of \$65,000 to run a new fishing clinics program which will be taken throughout Western Australia."

"The Recfishwest Addicted to Fishing Not Drugs project was one of the first ones we funded and it is exactly the sort of project that we hoped to attract. It encourages a healthy lifestyle and encourages kids to get out and fish with their families and friends." The Minister said.

Recfishwest represents the interests of the 643 000 recreational fishers in Western Australia. Recfishwest will be using the funds provided through the Recreational Fishing Community Grants Programme. Starting with a clinic in Geraldton on 24<sup>th</sup> August and finishing on 18<sup>th</sup> September in Derby, more than 1,000 children will get the opportunity to try their hand at fishing on this tour alone. A successful southern tour was run in April 2006 with 543 young Western Australians participating.

"The 'Addicted to Fishing not Drugs' program simply encourages kids and their families to go fishing where they can enjoy a healthy outdoor activity and talk about things that are going on at school or with their friends. In this way, issues such as drug use, bullying and self image issues can be detected earlier to the benefit of the student and the family. The program also teaches kids that they can be good at some aspect of fishing which reinforces self belief." Executive Director of Recfishwest Frank Prokop said.

A similar program has been successful in the United States. International identity Steve Starling has written a booklet which will be distributed to participants.

"Recfishwest is very grateful to Minister Abetz for making funds available for such an important activity. It complements the already successful SunSmart fishing clinics and other initiatives which have been supported by the State government." Mr Prokop said.

**ENDS**

#### ***Media Contact***

***Frank Prokop, Executive Director - Recfishwest ph. 9246 3366 or 0419 949 118***

*Recfishwest is supported by the Australian Government Community Recreational Fishing Grants Program, Healthway and the WA Government. Recfishwest encourages responsible, SunSmart behaviour at all times.*

## *Addicted to Fishing Not Drugs Northern Tour Itinerary*

Thursday 24 Aug	Geraldton	School clinics Geraldton Primary Bluff Point Primary	In front of the museum 9:30 – 11:30am 11:30 – 1:30pm
Friday 25 Aug	Kalbarri	School clinics Kalbarri District	Murchison River – Finger Jetty 9:00 – 11:00am 11:00 – 1:00pm
Sat 26 Aug	Kalbarri	Public Clinics – Kalbarri Seaside Villas	Public 9:00-11:00am Meet at Sally’s Tree
Sat 26 Aug	Kununurra	Public clinic – Frank Prokop, Con Costa	Contact Leanne O’Shea 0407 995 978
Sun 27 Aug	Denham	Public Clinics	Public 9:00-11:00am Public 12noon-2:00pm Denham Jetty
Mon 28 Aug	Shark Bay	School Clinics (Shark Bay Schools)	In School clinic 10:50 – 12:30pm 1:00 – 2:40pm
Tuesday 29 Aug	Carnarvon	School Clinic East Carnarvon Primary School	Carnarvon Jetty 12:40 – 2:20pm
Wed 30 Aug	Carnarvon	School Clinics Carnarvon Primary School Carnarvon Christian School	Carnarvon Jetty 12:30 – 2:30pm 9:00-11:00am
Thurs 31	Carnarvon	School Clinics St Mary’s Star of the Sea	Carnarvon Jetty 1:00 – 3:00pm
Sun 3 Sept	Exmouth	Public Clinics	Public 1:00 – 2:30pm Public 2:30 – 4:00pm Town Beach
Mon 4 Sept	Exmouth	School Clinics Exmouth District	In school clinic (All day)
Wed 6 Sept	Onslow	School Clinics Onslow School	Town Beach 9:00 – 11:00am 11:00 – 1:00pm
Fri 8 Sept	Dampier	School Clinics Karratha Primary School; St Luke’s High; Millars Well	Town Beach (Dampier) 9:00 – 11:00am 9:00 – 11:00am 11:00 – 1:00pm
Sat 9 Sept	Dampier NBSFC	Public Clinics – Nichol Bay Sportsfishing Club	Public 8:30-12:00 Floating Pontoon
Monday 11 Sept	Port Hedland	School Clinics Strelley Regional School	In School Clinic Afternoon
Tues 12 Sept	Port Hedland	School Clinics South Hedland Primary Hedland Senior High	Spoil Bank 9:00 – 12noon 12:00 – 2:00pm
Fri 15 Sept	Broome	School Clinics Broome Senior High Roebuck Primary School	Broome Jetty 9:00 – 11:00am 11:00 – 1:00pm
Sat 16 Sept	Broome	Public Clinics	Broome Jetty Public 8:30 – 10:30am; 3:00 – 5:00pm
Mon 18 Sept	Derby	School Clinics Holy Rosary	Derby Jetty 9:30 – 11:30