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Airport supports growth of kids with diverse needs through new riding helmets

Riding for the Disabled Top End (RDA) has received 30 new helmets, and 6 pairs of riding boots thanks to Airport Development Group's inaugural Community Grants Program.

The helmets and boots, which need to be replaced every 5 years, are important safety equipment for participants in RDA's programs, which allow people with diverse abilities to learn new life skills and achieve personal growth through equestrian activities.

"Airport Development Group is extremely proud to support Riding for the Disabled Top End as part of our Community Grants Program," Executive General Manager People, Culture and Community Sandra De Kock said.

"RDA's success in supporting the health, wellbeing and development of people with varied abilities in a safe and supportive environment is something that aligns exceptionally well with the values of our grants program."

RDA's experienced coaches and passionate volunteers tailor individual experiences to support the care and development of people with needs including intellectual and learning disabilities, down syndrome, autism spectrum disorder, cerebral palsy, physical impairments, depression, anxiety and trauma.

Participants engage in a number of activities including preparing horse feed, therapeutic painting of horses and learning to ride.

"ADG's grant means we have the funds we need to keep our program running by replacing all our helmets and boots, which keep our participants safe," RDA Top End Chair Tania Lesneuck said.

"RDA relies on funding and volunteers, and we are so appreciative of the airport's support. Every bit counts and we encourage anyone in a position to support or volunteer to reach out to us."

ADG launched its Community Grants Program in April this year to empower community organisations in Darwin, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs. As part of the first grant round, 10 grassroots organisations received funding of up to \$2000, supporting lasting positive impact on communities in the Northern Territory.

ADG is a major provider to the Northern Territory economy, contributing an estimated \$668 million annually to the Territory economy. ADG has been part of the Territory for more than 25 years and over this time has evolved to be more than an airport operator, owning and managing a diverse portfolio of across aviation, tourism, property and energy utilities.

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