

Media Release

18 August 2015

VICHEALTH'S LOCAL SPORTS CLUB GRANTS SUPPORT INCREASED PARTICIPATION FOR ALL VICTORIANS

Local sport and active recreation clubs across Victoria are encouraged to apply for VicHealth's Active Club Grants to increase the number of people participating in their clubs and contribute to a healthy Victorian community.

Active Club Grants are part of VicHealth's long-term plan to get more Victorians living healthier and happier lives and are designed to help local sports clubs attract new members, particularly those who aren't getting the recommended 2.5 hours per week of moderate physical activity. Grants are on offer to sport and active recreation clubs throughout the state to help with the purchase of much needed core equipment like racquets, goals and playing uniforms so that more people can participate in sport.

VicHealth CEO Jerril Rechter said Active Club Grants had been supporting local clubs across the state – in regional, rural and metropolitan areas for nearly three decades.

“For over 27 years, VicHealth has provided small grants to more than 10,000 community sport and active recreation clubs and organisations across Victoria. These grants help people in some of our most disadvantaged communities join their local sporting clubs. They also provide critical equipment to help those who would otherwise not be able to participate in sport; for instance, clubs can apply for funding for modified equipment for people with disabilities such as bell balls, bowling arms or portable ramps.”

There are two grant types that clubs can apply for as part of this year's Active Club Grants.

This year we are offering clubs the option to apply for the traditional grant of up to \$3,000 or a larger grant of up to \$10,000 for core equipment that will help increase or maintain participation through their club.

“We are offering up to 10 of these larger grants per round for clubs that can make a big impact and get a greater number of Victorians to start or continue being physically active. This may include large clubs with a high number of teams, clubs that are seeking to implement new programs and activities to increase participation, clubs trying to reach new community members who currently don't participate, or clubs in areas experiencing significant population growth,” Ms Rechter said.

Ms Rechter said the Active Club Grants recognise the important role local clubs play in helping communities stay connected, increase physical activity and stay healthy.

“Sports clubs across Victoria are essential settings for maintaining physical activity levels and people's overall health. VicHealth is proud to have a long history of helping communities stay healthy and connected by building inclusive environments through Active Clubs Grants.

Media Contact

Helen Walsh, Senior Media Advisor P 03 9667 1319 M 0435 761 732 E hwalsh@vichealth.vic.gov.au

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“These grants will provide clubs with vital sporting equipment and uniforms as well as injury prevention items. There will be two opportunities this financial year for eligible clubs to apply for an Active Club Grant, allowing hundreds of clubs to benefit each year,” Ms Rechter added.

Priority will be given to applications from clubs and organisations that can demonstrate how an Active Club Grant can provide opportunities for more people to participate in sport or keep people participating.

For further information or to apply online, visit www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/activeclub.

Round 1 – opened Monday 17 August 2015 and closes Friday 18 September 2015

Round 2 – opens Monday 1 February 2016 and closes Friday 4 March 2016

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