

MEDIA RELEASE

12 January 2015

VICHEALTH FUNDING FOR LOCAL SPORT AND RECREATION CLUBS NOW OPEN

Local sport and active recreation clubs across Victoria have a second opportunity to apply for VicHealth's Active Club Grants, which aim to get more people in Victoria physically active through sport.

Grants of up to \$3,000 are on offer to community sport and active recreation clubs to assist with the purchase of essential sporting, and injury prevention and management equipment.

VicHealth CEO Jerril Rechter said this year's Active Club Grants have been split into two rounds.

"To create greater opportunities for clubs to access Active Club Grants, VicHealth is running two rounds of funding – the second of which is opening today (Monday 12 January 2015).

"Active Club Grants tackle two major barriers that prevent people from taking part in sport and active recreation – cost and injury," Ms Rechter said.

For over 26 years, VicHealth has provided small grants to more than 10,000 community sport and active recreation clubs across Victoria.

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.

"VicHealth is committed to tackling the tough issues – in particular the rising obesity levels in Victoria. Our Walk to School campaign is a great initiative to get children moving, our free TeamUp app connects adults and groups to a wide range of physical activities within their local community and the new H30 Challenge is essential to reducing Victorians' intake of excess kilojoules through sugary drinks.

"To help combat obesity, we also want to make physical activity participation part of everyday living, active recreation and organised sport. VicHealth's Active Clubs Grants in particular aim to make it a little easier for clubs to buy items or equipment to encourage people in the local community to join their club, and help them improve safety for those taking part.

"We had a terrific response to the first round of Active Club Grants, and are keen to encourage even more clubs across Victoria to apply for round two," she added.

Priority will be given to applications from clubs and organisations that can demonstrate how an Active Club Grant will increase opportunities for regular physical activity in their community.

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

Round 2 – opens Monday 12 January 2015 and closes Friday 13 February 2015.