

Media Release

1 February 2016

VICHEALTH FUNDING GRANTS TO HELP LOCAL SPORTS CLUBS GIVE ALL VICTORIANS THE CHANCE TO GET MORE ACTIVE

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 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 in regional, rural and metropolitan areas for nearly three decades.

"For the past 27 years, VicHealth has provided grants to more than 10,000 community sport and active recreation clubs and organisations across Victoria. These grants help clubs implement new programs and activities to increase participation and reach new community members," Ms Rechter said.

"This round we'll be placing a particular focus on supporting sporting clubs and organisations that can attract more people to their club, or improve participation opportunities for Victoria's Aboriginal community.

"In awarding these grants, special consideration will also be given to applications from clubs in areas of socioeconomic disadvantage as well as clubs/organisations who can demonstrate that an Active Club Grant will increase opportunities for regular physical activity in their community."

Victorian Minister for Health, Jill Hennessy, said being active is critical for a healthy lifestyle.

"The Active Club Grants help our local clubs and teams buy the equipment they need to play the sports they love," Ms Hennessy.

"Whether it's for essential equipment like bats, portable goals, uniforms and balls, or items to prevent or manage injuries, I encourage local clubs to apply for a VicHealth grant."

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

Clubs have 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.

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

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

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