

Media Release

The Hon Ros Spence MP
Minister for Multicultural Affairs
Minister for Community Sport
Minister for Youth



Tuesday, 27 April 2021

KICKING IN FOR COUNTRY FOOTY AND NETBALL

Football and netball in regional Victoria is back in full swing and the Andrews Labor Government is providing more funding to help clubs grow, increase participation and support local communities.

Minister for Community Sport Ros Spence today announced that applications for the \$5 million *2021-22 Country Football and Netball Program* are now open, with funding available to upgrade and develop facilities for football and netball clubs to meet growing demand and welcome even more members.

The partnership with Netball Victoria, the AFL, and AFL Victoria was established in 2005 to help netball and football clubs across the state, because everybody deserves equal facilities, no matter where they live.

Grants of up to \$150,000 are available to deliver projects such as redeveloping and building new ovals and netball courts, installing sports lighting, and building new and redeveloped pavilions.

There will be a focus on supporting communities that have been affected by a natural disaster and those that are experiencing socio-economic disadvantage, strong population growth or other economic challenges.

Since its establishment, the program has invested more than \$30 million into more than 500 football and netball projects across the state. Better sport and recreation facilities make it easier for players of all abilities, coaches, umpires and supporters to get involved in local sport and lead healthy and active lifestyles.

Applications for funding from local councils close on 22 June 2021. For more information and to apply, visit sport.vic.gov.au/grants-and-funding. A second round of the program will open in September 2021.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Community Sport Ros Spence

"Everyone deserves a fair go and that's why we are supporting country football and netball clubs and the players, supporters and volunteers who make them strong."

"Better facilities mean clubs can cater for more players, host more events and draw bigger crowds, creating a real buzz in the community."

Quotes attributable to Head of AFL Victoria Brad Scott

"Country football and netball clubs bring people together and are often the cornerstone of towns and communities."

"This program will allow a large number of Victorians to benefit from upgraded facilities at their local clubs, which is fantastic for communities across the state."

Quotes attributable to Netball Victoria Chief Executive Officer Rosie King

"Providing clubs with the opportunity to score new lights and shelters, safe courts and other facilities will make a real difference and hopefully inspire even more locals back to the court."

"It's great that leagues are up and running again and we thank the Victorian Government for their support."