

Media Release

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



Monday, 25 October 2021

UNIFORMS, TRAVEL: GRANTS TAKE ABORIGINAL ATHLETES FAR

Aboriginal Victorians are being supported to play the sports they love with new grants awarded to help pay for uniforms, equipment and travel to participate in events.

Minister for Community Sport Ros Spence today announced 14 grants to community organisations and individuals through the *2021-2022 Aboriginal Sport Participation Grant Program*.

Grant recipients include Maarli Nhuungkhus Maarni Dance Group which received \$1,000 to purchase new costumes and uniforms.

The Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation has received \$750 to help junior BMX champion Jayden Dellar from Ballarat Sebastopol RUSH BMX club take part in the BMX National Championships in November.

Echuca Football and Netball Club received \$1,000 to supply uniforms to Aboriginal players.

From Tokyo Olympics bronze medallist and NBA star Patty Mills to Olympic 400m champion Cathy Freeman, Aboriginal athletes have made a huge impact in the sporting arena and beyond.

The program is about supporting Aboriginal communities to take part in sport and active recreation and enjoy the social and health benefits that participation offers.

Since the start of the program in 2020, the Victorian Government has provided 128 grants totalling more than \$138,000 to Aboriginal community organisations, clubs and individuals across the state.

Up to \$1,500 is available for teams to participate in statewide or national carnivals, up to \$1,000 for team uniforms and club sporting equipment and \$750 for travel and accommodation expenses.

The next round of funding will open soon. For more information about the program and grant recipients, visit sport.vic.gov.au.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Community Sport Ros Spence

"We're supporting strong Aboriginal involvement in local sport – creating healthier and more united communities."

"Investing in Aboriginal organisations, clubs, participants and volunteers provides a range of opportunities and breaks down the barriers to participation."

Quote attributable to Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Gabrielle Williams

"Sport connects people and connects communities – it's a crucial part of Victorian life. For every Aboriginal Victorian who wants to get involved on the pitch or on the court, this program is about making that happen."