

Media Release

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



Monday, 1 November 2021

GRANTS OPEN TO HELP ABORIGINAL ATHLETES KICK GOALS

The Andrews Labor Government has launched a new round of grants to support Aboriginal Victorians cover the cost of uniforms, equipment and travel to participate in events.

Minister for Community Sport Ros Spence today opened round two of the *2021-22 Aboriginal Sport Participation Grant Program* with more than \$87,000 available to boost sporting activities.

Teams can apply for grants of up to \$1,500 to participate in state or national sport carnivals, up to \$1,000 for uniforms and sporting equipment, and up to \$750 for travel and accommodation expenses.

Previous grant recipients include the Budjeri Napan Association which supported six local girls to travel from Gippsland to Queensland, representing the Victorian Seven Sisters in Netball.

Bairnsdale Regional Unlimited Sports received a grant to help cover the cost of uniforms, travel and accommodation for 13 teams to attend Aboriginal state carnivals as well as 15 members of the Indigenous Golf Association of Victoria to attend the National Golf Championships.

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 *Aboriginal Sport Participation Grant Program* supports communities to harness the social and health benefits that sport and active recreation can provide.

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

To apply for a grant, visit sport.vic.gov.au.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Community Sport Ros Spence

"This program has already made an incredible difference by supporting Aboriginal Victorians to get involved with local sport – creating healthier, happier and more united communities."

"I encourage community sporting clubs, Aboriginal organisations, local participants, volunteers and passionate communities to take advantage of this opportunity and support the next generation of Aboriginal champions."

Quote attributable to Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Gabrielle Williams

"Sport is a wonderful part of Victorian life and we want everyone to have the chance to get involved and progress through the ranks. The benefits of sports participation extend beyond the individual and enrich the community."

Quote attributable to Budjeri Napan Secretary Anne-Maree Stever

"We are extremely grateful for receiving the Aboriginal Sport Participation Grant. Without it, our six girls from Gippsland wouldn't have been able to represent the Victorian Seven Sisters team in Queensland."

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