

Media Release

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



Wednesday, 1 June 2022

HELPING SPORTS CLUBS WHEN THEY NEED IT MOST

The Andrews Labor Government is backing community sports clubs get back on the ground after being affected by natural disasters or unforeseen events such as theft of equipment.

Minister for Community Sport Ros Spence announced grants of up to \$2,000 are available from today through round one of the Labor Government's *Emergency Sporting Equipment Grants Program*.

The grants provide swift and practical support to clubs to help them back on their feet in times of need, replacing essential equipment lost through fires, theft and other setbacks.

Previous grant recipients include Traralgon City Soccer Club which received almost \$2,000 to assist after flooding, while North Sunshine Tennis Club also received \$2,000 towards replacing stolen equipment after a break-in.

The Program complements the *Sporting Club Grants Program* which has delivered more than \$13 million to support community sporting clubs since 2014.

The recent *Community Sport Sector COVID-19 Survival Package* has also provided \$50 million to more than 7,500 clubs, leagues, state associations and other organisations across the sport and active recreation sector during the pandemic.

These Government initiatives make community sport more accessible and inclusive, stimulate local economies, build local sport and volunteer opportunities, and increase participation.

For more information about the *Emergency Sporting Equipment Grants* and how they can help visit sport.vic.gov.au.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Community Sport Ros Spence

"Our emergency grants provide the lifeline clubs need so they can continue doing what they do best, bringing communities together and helping people play the sport they love."

"This is about supporting clubs get back to normal after setbacks beyond their control."

Quotes attributable to Traralgon City Soccer Club City President Miimetua Paku

"The emergency grant has provided us with welcome financial assistance at the time we most needed it."

"The grant helped us replace essential equipment and meant we could start the season as if nothing had happened."

Quotes attributable to North Sunshine Tennis Club President John Harvey

"The robbery at our club was a considerable setback. They took tennis equipment that was used by those in our community who cannot afford to purchase racquets and balls."

"In times where clubs are finding it difficult to raise funds, we are most grateful that the Government stood behind our community members and the club by providing this grant."

Media contact: Stephanie Hobbs 0429 275 437 | stephanie.hobbs@minstaff.vic.gov.au