

Media Release

The Hon Ros Spence MP

Minister for Prevention of Family Violence
Minister for Multicultural Affairs
Minister for Community Sport
Minister for Youth



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KICKING IN MORE FOR COUNTRY FOOTY AND NETBALL UPGRADES

The Andrews Labor Government is continuing its investments in community sport infrastructure with upgrades to netball courts at Pearcedale and Dromana.

Minister for Community Sport Ros Spence today announced the latest projects soon to get underway with funding from round 2 of the Labor Government's *Country Football and Netball Program*.

At Pearcedale Recreation Reserve, the single court will be repositioned, and the upgrades will deliver two new plexi-pave courts complete with lighting, so the Pearcedale Panthers Football Netball Club has more opportunities to play, train and host local competition.

The Dromana Tigers Netball Club will also expand their training and game day capacity with a new lit-up acrylic court to be put in at Dromana Recreation Reserve.

The Government program focuses on delivering upgrades in areas impacted by natural disasters or communities with high socio-economic disadvantage, strong population growth or other economic challenges.

Established in 2005, the program is a partnership with Netball Victoria, the Australian Football League, and AFL Victoria to help netball and football clubs across the state to meet growing demand and welcome even more members. So far, the program has delivered more than \$35 million to support more than 550 projects.

Better sport and recreation facilities make it easier for players, coaches, umpires and supporters of all abilities to get involved in local sport and lead healthy and active lifestyles.

The Labor Government has invested more than \$1.2 billion in community sport and recreation infrastructure since 2014.

This includes another \$88 million from the *Victorian Budget 2022-23* to continue the flagship *Local Sports Infrastructure Fund*, game-changing *Female Friendly Facilities Fund* and the popular *Country Football and Netball Program*.

For more info about the program including the latest grant recipients visit sport.vic.gov.au/grants-and-funding.

Quote attributable to Minister for Community Sport Ros Spence

"Country football and netball is the lifeblood of regional communities and that's why we're backing more projects in towns where they're needed most."

Quotes attributable to Head of AFL Victoria Ben Kavenagh

"We are committed to providing the best possible environments to cater for participation growth across all parts of our game."

Quote attributable to Netball Victoria Chief Executive Officer Rosie King

"Community netball brings people together, nurtures social connections, and it's where future champions start their journey. This program is delivering the modern facilities we need to support that."