

Media Release

The Hon Ros Spence MP
Minister for Prevention of Family Violence
Minister for Multicultural Affairs
Minister for Community Sport
Minister for Youth



Wednesday, 12 July 2022

SUPPORT FOR ABORIGINAL ATHLETES TO GO NEXT LEVEL

The Andrews Labor Government is backing more Aboriginal athletes to win on the field, court and track with grants to boost participation and cover the costs of things like uniforms, equipment and travel to sporting carnivals.

Minister for Community Sport Ros Spence today launched the latest round of the *Aboriginal Sport Participation Grant Program* with more than \$50,000 now available.

Grants of up to \$1,500 are available for teams to participate in state-wide or national sport carnivals, up to \$1,000 to cover team uniforms and sport equipment, and up to \$750 for travel and accommodation expenses.

Previous recipients include Indigenous Basketball Australia which received \$1,500 towards costs for the team to travel to the Indigenous Community Basketball League in Bendigo in February and March.

Both men's and women's Melbourne Stars Aboriginal T20 cricket teams received \$1,500 for travel to Albury for the inaugural T20 Aboriginal Tournament against the Sydney Thunder, Sydney Sixers and Melbourne Renegades.

Greensborough College received \$750 for student and up-and-coming basketballer Heath Hay to participate in player development programs to help refine technical basketball skills.

The *Aboriginal Sport Participation Grant Program* reflects the Labor Government's support of Aboriginal Victorians and building stronger connections within the community sport sector.

Since the program began in 2020, the Government has provided 200 grants totalling more than \$212,000 to Aboriginal community run organisations, clubs, and individuals across the state.

It's one of the many ways the Government is ensuring individuals, teams and organisations have the resources they need to provide opportunities for all Victorians.

Applications for funding are open until 16 August 2022. For more information or to apply visit sport.vic.gov.au.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Community Sport Ros Spence

"Sport has the power to foster connections and a sense of belonging while also building confidence."

"These grants will open doors for young people and increase participation in sport, which can have long-lasting positive impacts."

Quote attributable to Minister for Treaty and First Peoples Gabrielle Williams

"Sport connects people and connects communities. For every Aboriginal Victorian who wants to get involved on the pitch or on the court, this program is about making that happen."

Quote attributable to General Manager of Strategic Initiatives at Indigenous Basketball Australia Sally Phillips

"We see many of our players traveling great distances for the opportunity to take part in our program, so we are truly grateful to now be in a position to help fund the high costs of petrol and accommodation."

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