

Media Release

The Hon Ros Spence MP
Minister for Prevention of Family Violence
Minister for Community Sport
Minister for Suburban Development



Friday, 3 February 2023

SCORE A COUNTRY FOOTY AND NETBALL GRANT IN 2023

The Andrews Labor Government is supporting the growth of country football and netball with more grants to build new ovals and courts where they're needed most.

Minister for Community Sport Ros Spence today announced applications for the Country Football and Netball program.

Up to \$2.5 million is available for rural, regional and outer metropolitan councils to apply for grants of up to \$250,000 to deliver projects such as installing sports lighting, and building new or redeveloping pavilions to benefit their local clubs.

Regional clubs impacted by the recent floods, or in communities experiencing socio-economic disadvantage, strong population growth or other economic challenges are also strongly encouraged to approach their local councils to apply for program funding.

Recent successful projects include \$68,000 to Warrnambool City Council for lighting upgrades at the Dennington netball court, \$197,000 to the City of Greater Geelong for the Anakie Reserve netball court upgrade, and \$200,000 to Golden Plains Shire Council for the Linton oval reconstruction.

The Country Football and Netball Program makes it easier for players, coaches, umpires, kids and club supporters to stay involved in the game and encourages communities to lead healthy and active lifestyles.

The program is a partnership with the AFL, AFL Victoria and Netball Victoria and has invested more than \$35 million across the state since it was launched in 2005.

This year, maximum grant amounts have increased from the previous round of the program to ensure important infrastructure can continue to be delivered.

The Labor Government has invested more than \$1.6 billion in community sports infrastructure since 2014.

Applications close on 27 March 2023. For more information about the program and to apply visit sport.vic.gov.au.

Quote attributable to Minister for Community Sport Ros Spence

"Country football and netball clubs are the lifeblood of Victorian communities and we're supporting them with the infrastructure they need to take on more players, host more events and draw bigger crowds - creating a real buzz in the community and boosting local economies."

Quote attributable to the Head of AFL Victoria Ben Kavenagh

"It is fantastic to see the program continuing in 2023, which means many country football and netball clubs will benefit from new and upgraded facilities in coming years."

Quote attributable to Netball Victoria CEO Andrea Pearman

"Better facilities mean more participation, and greater opportunities for Victorians to experience everything our sport has to offer."

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