

Media Release

The Hon Ros Spence MP

Minister for Agriculture

Minister for Community Sport

Minister for Carers and Volunteers



Thursday, 18 September 2025

MORE WINS FOR COUNTRY FOOTBALL AND NETBALL THIS FINALS

The Allan Labor Government is backing local footy and netball clubs as they compete in finals, with grants to support more Victorians to play the sport they love close to home in regional Victoria.

Minister for Community Sport Ros Spence today announced that nine recipients will share in more than \$1.5 million from the *2025-26 Country Football and Netball Program* – as well as announcing a new round of grants has opened.

Developed in partnership with the AFL, AFL Victoria and Netball Victoria the program has invested more than \$43 million and delivered more than 590 projects since 2005.

Minyip Recreation Reserve is set to receive a \$250,000 investment to upgrade their oval lighting to competition-standard 100 lux LED which will be a major boost for the Minyip-Murtoa Burras Football Netball Club.

Deakin Recreation Reserve, home of the Shepparton Bears and Shepparton United Football Netball Clubs has also scored \$133,000 to install new accessible and all-gender facilities to the change rooms.

Other successful grants include \$220,000 at Agnes Brereton Reserve in Traralgon to install 200 lux LED lighting on the 10 netball courts and more than \$242,000 for oval lighting upgrades at Cavendish Recreation Reserve in the state's south west.

Applications for the new round of grants for the *2026-27 Country Football Netball Program* close on 26 February 2026. Regional and outer metropolitan councils can apply for grants of up to \$250,000 for sports infrastructure developments including court lighting upgrades, changeroom overhauls, new pavilions and more.

For the latest information and successful grant recipients visit sport.vic.gov.au.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Community Sport Ros Spence

"Finals time highlights just how important local grounds are to local communities and these grants will ensure clubs have the facilities they deserve close to home."

"Better home ground facilities mean clubs can encourage more participation, host more events, support volunteers, and draw bigger crowds which can be a major boost for regional economies and the jobs and businesses in those regions."

Quote attributable to the Head of AFL Victoria Greg Madigan

"AFL Victoria thanks the Victorian Government for its ongoing support of community sport in regional areas through the Country Football and Netball Program, which allows us to sustain and grow the game for future generations."

Quote attributable to Facilities and Infrastructure Manager of Netball Victoria Shelley Haynes

"Netball continues to play a vital role in regional Victoria, and we acknowledge the Victorian Government's commitment to expanding participation through improved facilities."

Media contact: Liam Mcallister 0488 771 334 | liam.mcallister@minstaff.vic.gov.au

