

Media Release

The Hon Martin Pakula MP

Minister for Jobs, Innovation and Trade
Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events
Minister for Racing



**DELIVERING
FOR ALL VICTORIANS**

Thursday, 14 March 2019

DELIVERING FOR COUNTRY FOOTBALL AND NETBALL CLUBS

The Andrews Labor Government is giving growing footy and netball clubs in regional Victoria another chance to upgrade grounds, courts and pavilions and welcome even more budding sporting stars than ever before.

Minister for Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events Martin Pakula today announced at Ellinbank Recreation Reserve that applications are now open for the next round of the *Country Football and Netball Program*.

The program replaces and upgrades ageing facilities for football and netball clubs across rural, regional and outer metropolitan Victoria, so they can meet growing demand and welcome even more members.

It's a funding partnership with the AFL, AFL Victoria and Netball Victoria to help netball and football clubs across the state meet the growing demand for player participation across regional Victoria.

Grants of up to \$100,000 go to projects that assist in ground resurfacing, installation of lighting, building modern and safer netball courts and new pavilions with accessible and female-friendly change rooms.

It was the Labor Government that launched the *Country Football and Netball Program* in 2005, and since then it has invested more than \$26.6 million in more than 480 projects across the state.

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.

Clubs in regional Victoria and outer metropolitan areas are eligible to apply. Applications are open and close on 3 June 2019.

For more information or to apply online, visit www.sport.vic.gov.au

Quotes attributable to Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events Martin Pakula

"Some of our greatest football and netball stars have come from country Victoria and we want our next generation of athletes to have the modern and safe facilities they deserve."

"Better facilities allow clubs to take on more players, host more events and draw in even bigger crowds which we know is even better news for the local economy."

Quote attributable to Member for Eastern Victoria Harriet Shing

"This funding continues our record investment in upgrading local clubs and facilities, and making sure that they are accessible, modern, fit for purpose and the heart of our communities for training, competition, gatherings and celebrations."