

Australian Sports Foundation announces recipients of largest ever Active Kids grant round

Almost \$550,000 of free sporting equipment to kids in community sports clubs around Australia, supporting a return to sport following COVID-19

MEDIA RELEASE

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The Australian Sports Foundation (ASF) has announced the recipients of their largest ever Active Kids Grants program, distributing almost \$550,000 worth of free sporting equipment and uniforms to help support more than 27,000 kids at 144 community sports clubs around Australia.

This latest round of Active Kids grants was generously funded by The Dickinson Foundation, a great example of how philanthropy can positively impact the health and wellbeing of young Australians through sport.

Community sports clubs in all states and territories were successful in their applications for uniforms, equipment or a combination of both for children and young Australians in their clubs up to the age of 20. The grants were awarded to projects big and small from funding equipment for junior development programs to uniforms for disadvantaged indigenous women and girls' groups which would enable their ongoing participation in their chosen sports.

Altogether, 24 different sports received funding, from water polo to archery, rowing to mountain biking and more mainstream sports such as tennis, rugby (league and union) and cricket.

"We're thrilled to be able support over 27,000 kids in sporting clubs in need with this round of Active Kids grants. The grants have been made possible with the generous funding by The Dickinson Foundation who have stepped up to the plate and offered community sporting clubs the opportunity to receive vital funding for kids in their local communities," said Australian Sports Foundation CEO Patrick Walker.

"It's important to acknowledge that there were far more applications than grants awarded. Unfortunately, the events of the past two years have had a devastating impact on community sporting clubs around Australia and have left young Australians in particular, without a vital outlet of physical activity and social connection, said Mr Walker.

"Every child deserves to have an active childhood but to make that a reality, we need to give clubs the means to start rebuilding their resources and programs. We're committed to helping improve the health of young Australians by getting them back to playing their favourite sports and supporting the recovery of community sports clubs from COVID-19." said David Dickinson, Founder and Director, The Dickinson Foundation.

"To this end we are calling for more individuals and organisations to come forward and help us fund future grant rounds so we can enable more and more youth participation in sport. The ASF has a variety of different grants and funding options available to ensure funds reach those who need them most and we are happy to discuss how we can help our benefactors meet their goals," said Mr Walker.

The ASF's recent survey on the effects of COVID-19 on Australia's 70,000 community clubs found 60% are worrying about participant / member retention with twice as many clubs reporting a decline in participant numbers when compared to this time last year.

The need to encourage kids to return to sport is highlighted by 40% of clubs sharing that their participation decline is strongest in the 11-18 years bracket.

The full report can be found here: <https://covid.sportsfoundation.org.au/>

The Active Kids Grants help eligible clubs acquire free equipment and uniforms to remove barriers to participation by providing the essentials for junior club members under 20 years of age to get active through sport.

To read the Active Kids Grants guidelines and for a list of all recipients, please visit <https://fundraise.sportsfoundation.org.au/grants>

The Australian Sports Foundation is seeking funding for future grants from individuals, PAFs and Foundations. To discuss donating to the ASF to help community sport in Australia, please visit <https://sportsfoundation.org.au/grants>

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About the Australian Sports Foundation

The Australian Sports Foundation is Australia's leading non-profit sports fundraising organisation and charity, and the only organisation to which donations for sport are tax-deductible.

In the last 30 years the Sports Foundation has distributed hundreds of millions of dollars to Aussie sports clubs to help develop an inclusive and active sporting nation, and to strengthen local communities.

For more information, please visit sportsfoundation.org.au/



About The Dickinson Foundation

The Dickinson Foundation is a forward-thinking philanthropic organisation dedicated to ensuring all young Australians are supported to participate, develop and stay in sport.

Through partnership with the Australian Sports Foundation, The Dickinson Foundation provides valuable funding which allows support and grants to be provided directly to local junior sport and community clubs without charitable status.

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