

Saturday, 11 September 2010

### **\$28.6 MILLION BOOST FOR GRASSROOTS SPORTING CLUBS**

More than \$28 million in additional funding is being allocated in this year's State Budget to help local sporting clubs to upgrade facilities and grounds.

Recreation and Sport Minister, Michael Wright says funding available through the annual Community Recreation and Sport Facilities Program - which funds grassroots facility development and upgrades - will be more than quadrupled, increasing by \$5 million a year.

"Strong sporting clubs support stronger communities. That's why the Rann Government is taking action to ensure communities have facilities they need to encourage healthy, active involvement in all forms of sport," Mr Wright said.

"The increase will apply immediately with \$6.49 million available in 2010/11 with local sporting clubs able to submit their applications from next Saturday, 18 September.

"I've seen a strong demand for these facilities through my engagement with local communities across the State, and I'm confident this funding will give tens of thousands of South Australians of all ages greater opportunities to be involved in physical activities," Mr Wright said.

"In addition to the increased annual program funding of \$5 million, the maximum amount clubs can apply for has been increased from \$300,000 to \$500,000. All funding is required to be matched by the applicant through other funding sources or in-kind contributions.

"This matched funding requirement means that our total annual investment of \$6.49 million into the program will result in at least \$13 million worth of economic activity across the State.

"Not only will local sports organisations benefit, but local employment will also be provided with a significant boost through the projects coming from successful program applications.

"This week's State Budget will also include an allocation of \$5 million to start development of a new sporting hub in Port Augusta and \$3 million towards the redevelopment of the Campbelltown Leisure Centre," Mr Wright said.

Sport and active recreation clubs and associations, local government authorities and school councils are eligible to apply for facility projects that meet a demonstrated community need and provide access to the general community.

Applications close on Monday, November 15.

Eligibility criteria and funding guidelines are available at [www.recsport.sa.gov.au](http://www.recsport.sa.gov.au)