



179 GRASSROOTS SPORTS CLUBS RECEIVE GRANTS TO KEEP AUSSIE KIDS ACTIVE

More than \$600,000 of sporting equipment and uniforms provided to clubs in need.

The 2025 Active Kids grant will support more than 170 grassroots sports clubs across the country, providing a big boost to keep kids active. This program's success is made possible by the generous financial support of the Dickinson Foundation, together with the Australian Sports Foundation.

This year's funding program awards more than \$600,000 worth of uniforms and sporting equipment, including retail and shipping value, to 179 volunteer-run, community clubs supporting young Australians aged 20 and under.

From regional pony clubs to inclusive baseball teams and refugee support clinics, this year's recipients span 30 sports, all sharing one goal: to break down barriers to participation and build a lifelong love of sport.

Australian Sports Foundation CEO, Sue Hunt, said the Active Kids Grant was designed to support kids' physical and mental wellbeing by giving grassroots clubs access to vital gear.

"Grassroots clubs are the heart of Australian sport. They build healthier, happier communities, yet they are often the most under-resourced," Ms Hunt said.

"The Australian Sports Foundation is proud to work alongside our partners and generous donors to provide practical support like uniforms and equipment, and to offer clubs the tools to fundraise for themselves through our platform," she said.

"At a time when financial pressures are holding too many families back, these grants are helping local clubs to provide the uniforms and equipment young Australians need to feel included, stay active and thrive in sport," David Dickinson said.

Newcomb Power Football & Netball Club in Geelong's Northern Suburbs is among the clubs set to benefit, receiving new equipment including balls, bibs, tackle bags and agility equipment for its junior football and netball teams, ensuring no child is left out.

"We don't have enough footies and netballs to go around, meaning kids are often left waiting on the sidelines. This grant allows us to run better quality training sessions and get more kids actively engaged," the club's treasurer Aaron Chin said.

Among the other 2025 recipients are:

- **Mermaids Water Polo Club (QLD):** Using the grant to launch a junior program for kids as young as six, providing shirts and take-home balls to make them feel like part of the club from day one. The grant will also help to keep more children engaged in aquatic sport after learn-to-swim programs end.
- **Yandina Pony Club (QLD):** Investing in cones, bean bags, egg-and-spoon sets and an obstacle kit to help young riders develop motor skills and horse control. The gear will also be shared with other clubs through their community “equipment library” on the Sunshine Coast.
- **Port Adelaide Baseball Club (SA):** Rolling out its new Miracle League program for children with disabilities. The grant will fund safe, inclusive equipment such as foam bats and colourful wiffle balls to create a fun and welcoming team environment.
- **Greater Western Sydney Football Club Melrose Park (NSW):** The grant will provide bibs, balls, shin pads and goals – so every child can show up with pride, ready to play, in all-year social inclusion football clinics for kids from refugee, migrant and low-income backgrounds.
- **Lucknow Football Netball Club (VIC):** Expanding its junior offerings with a new Superkick transition program from Auskick to junior football and providing proper uniforms for its under-13 netball team, which previously had to wear hand-me-downs.

More case studies are available upon request to Rebeka Powell – 0459 900 045

Since launching in 2020, the Active Kids Grant has now provided more than \$2.4 million in equipment and uniform support to over 600 community clubs and organisations, benefiting tens of thousands of kids around the nation.

The 2025 grant round received 571 applications, with 179 clubs approved to share in approximately \$603,000 worth of support. The grants are generously funded by The Dickinson Foundation and will be fulfilled through ASF’s supply partners, ISC Sports and HART Sport.

Applications for the next Active Kids Grant round will be announced early in 2026. In the meantime, community clubs can raise their own funds on the Australian Sports Foundation Donation platform. Head to <https://asf.org.au/>.

Through the Active Kids Grant program, The Dickinson Foundation and the ASF aim to improve the physical and mental health of children and young Australians by encouraging and/or increasing sports participation through the provision of uniforms and equipment to eligible community organisations.

The 2025 Active Kids Grant was open to volunteer-run, grassroots and community clubs and organisations with members aged 20 or younger.

The 2025 Active Kids grant round opened on February 17, 2025 and closed on March 28.

For more information

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