



MEDIA RELEASE

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Sports funding gets the Mackay community moving

Rugby union, netball and softball players, and other sports participants from Mackay will benefit from nearly \$15,000 in Queensland Government funding as part of the Sport and Recreation *Active Inclusion* program.

Active Inclusion offers special funding to sport and recreation clubs looking to build their own capacity through enhanced education and training programs, the recruitment and retention of volunteers, and by encouraging participation in sport and recreation from within their community.

State Member for Mackay Tim Mulherin MP said the Queensland Government, through the 2010-11 Budget, is providing funding over and above standard streams to help sport and recreation clubs develop and enhance their own resource as they look to grow and attract new membership.

“Local communities thrive through participation at local sport and recreation clubs, and that’s why we are supporting them to be as successful and inclusive as they can be,” Mr Mulherin said.

“Clubs will be able to build their capacity by providing accredited training to their volunteers, such as referees, coaches, and first aid officers, and by supporting clubs to hold come and try days to boost their membership.”

The local organisations to receive funding are:

- Mackay District Junior Rugby Union Inc to provide first aid, sports trainer and coaching courses for rugby league at North Mackay - \$4,831.
- Mackay District Rugby Union Inc to conduct a volunteer retention and support project for rugby union at Quarry Hill Rugby Grounds, North Mackay - \$550.
- Mackay Netball Association Inc to develop a volunteer management resource to support netball at South Mackay - \$5,000.
- Mackay Softball Association Inc to conduct accreditation courses and volunteer recognition for softball at Mackay - \$2,805.
- Mackay Wanderers Football Club Inc to provide junior and senior coaching accreditation courses and shirts for volunteers to support football at Mackay - \$1,570.

Sport Minister Phil Reeves, who announced the new suite of sport and recreation funding programs earlier this year, said the programs were designed to increase participation, recruit volunteers, and encourage disadvantaged communities to participate in sport and recreation.

“One of the targets in the Bligh Government’s blueprint for the next decade, *Toward Q2: Tomorrow’s Queensland*, is to help Queenslanders become Australia’s healthiest people by 2020,” Mr Reeves said.

“The benefits of regular physical activity are well-documented and our investment in sport and recreation is focussed on making sure everyone has an opportunity to get out and get active.

“Queensland invests more funding in sport and recreation than the other state in Australia, which helps to keep Queenslanders fit and healthy, and rewards us with the best sporting teams and athletes in the country.”

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Notes to Editors

The Sport and Recreation Active Inclusion Program supports communities by providing funding for activities and education to increase access to sport and recreation for individuals and groups facing barriers to participation within the community.

Funding is available under the following 3 categories:

- Participation initiatives - Projects that encourage greater opportunities to be involved in sport and recreation.
- Education and training programs - Training activities that develop the skills of service providers.
- Volunteer development and recruitment - Activities that support organisations with the recruitment and retention of volunteers.

Organisations eligible to apply:

- Queensland not-for-profit organisations
- Councils
- Queensland State schools
- A sport or recreation body that can deliver suitable projects to the target groups

For more information go to <http://www.sportrec.qld.gov.au/Funding.aspx>