



HEALTHIER FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

Improving access to community sport

Active kids, healthy kids.

Sport has huge benefits for our communities and our health, but the increasing costs can be a big barrier for some families. The Greens will help boost access to community sport to improve health and well-being in our communities.

Investment in grassroots sport is an investment in communities. It's an investment in healthy, happy kids and in the future of Australia's healthcare system. With rates of childhood obesity sky rocketing in Australia, we need to encourage kids away from the TV and on to the sporting field.

Participation in sport also has the benefit of growing community connections for families and kids. Being active, making friends and sharing in community activities are important building blocks for well-being in all areas of life.

The Greens will provide:

- **\$20 million for a community sports initiative** to address the barriers to participation for disadvantaged families
- **\$4 million for a new Reclink National Program** targeting assistance to sports and recreation programs in regional and rural communities with higher levels of disadvantage.

> BOOSTING ACCESS TO COMMUNITY SPORT

Ensuring that kids from lower socio-economic backgrounds stay active and healthy needs to be a particular priority.

The expense of obtaining equipment can be a real barrier to participating in sport. The Greens' Community Sports initiative will inject \$20 million dollars into improved access to sport through:

- \$10 million in direct financial support to families for costs associated with kids' participation in sport such as membership fees.
- \$9.5 million in grants to help set up local sports libraries where kids and local sports programs can borrow equipment.
- \$500,000 in assistance to help volunteers and sports clubs navigate the legal and organisational barriers to volunteering, including a hotline and assistance with the cost of qualifications such as first aid certificates.

The program will commence as a trial delivered through the Australian Sports Commission targeting areas of disadvantage as a priority. The Commission will work with local government to deliver the sports libraries element of the program. A rigorous evaluation will inform the program's further development.

> SUPPORT FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES

In addition to the Community Sports initiative, the Greens will fund \$4.0M over 4 years for a new Reclink National Program targeting assistance to sports and recreation programs in regional and rural communities with higher levels of disadvantage.

Funding the Reclink model is a prudent investment in building capacity in regional and rural communities to better respond to the needs of thousands of young people experiencing disadvantage.

> ONE ELEMENT OF A HEALTH PROMOTION FOCUS

Physical inactivity is the fourth leading cause of death due to non-communicable disease worldwide (heart disease, stroke, diabetes and cancers).¹ The rise in chronic disease, including heart disease and diabetes, means millions of Australians will live shorter and more challenging lives. Australians, and our health system, will benefit if we can prevent poor health outcomes arising earlier in life.

We know that sport alone will not make Australia healthier, which is why this measure should be introduced alongside a range of preventive health strategies.

¹ Department of Health, <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/health-pubhlth-strateg-active-evidence.htm>