

TREASURER TOM KOUTSANTONIS

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\$20 million to support grassroots sporting clubs

The 2017-18 State Budget includes a major \$20 million grant funding initiative to help sporting clubs establish or replace playing surfaces, as part of a drive to increase participation in grassroots sports.

The funding will be made available over two years and will assist sports like soccer, hockey, tennis and bowls with synthetic surfaces. Sporting clubs using wooden and hardcourt surfaces will also be eligible, such as basketball, volleyball, netball and tennis.

Background

This \$20 million initiative builds on the State Government's \$10 million commitment in last year's State Budget to build eight artificial pitches and upgrade facilities at soccer clubs across Adelaide.

Artificial pitches or playing surfaces vastly improve the standard of sporting facilities, help save on water costs, and can mean clubs can play in all types of weather.

It is expected that soccer, hockey, tennis, bowls, basketball, volleyball and netball clubs will be among those eligible for grant funding under this scheme.

Grant funding will be prioritised on the basis of contributions made to the project, including by the club or local government organisations.

Grassroots participation is a key part of the pathway to lifelong engagement in sport and active recreation.

Data from the recent AusPlay survey shows that 80 per cent of South Australians participated at least once a week in sport and recreation.

This investment in health and social engagement is key to maintaining and growing an active state.

Quotes attributable to Treasurer Tom Koutsantonis

Synthetic playing surfaces allow for many more games each week to be played at sporting clubs. They also improve the standard of facilities and encourage more young players to enjoy the fitness and social benefits associated with participation in club sport.

We want as many South Australians as possible to be active and engaged in their

communities, and this investment is a great way to encourage more people to get out there and play sports on a regular basis.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Sport and Recreation Leon Bignell

This funding will help our grassroots clubs thrive - they're vital to the health and wellbeing of our community, and we want these clubs to have the very best facilities.

Access to funding to upgrade or establish artificial pitches will make a huge difference to the standard of facilities clubs can offer and will go a big way towards increasing participation in sport across the state.

Our commitment to grassroots sport has already been a great success off the back of our \$20 million combined investment in the women's sporting facilities fund and artificial soccer pitches last year. Now more clubs will have access to funding and I'm sure this initiative is going to be warmly welcomed by parents, children, club staff and volunteers.

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