



MEDIA RELEASE

Minister for Health and Ageing

Tony Abbott MHR

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New grants and schools competition to tackle obesity

The Commonwealth Government has today launched a new grants program and schools competition focused on preventing obesity and chronic disease.

The \$12 million 'Healthy Active Australia' community and schools program will provide grants of between \$10,000 and \$200,000 for local projects promoting healthy living among at-risk groups.

These grants will particularly target children, adolescents, young women, families in lower socio-economic groups and people in rural or remote areas, as well as Indigenous communities.

This funding will be provided under the Australian Better Health Initiative (ABHI). ABHI is a four-year, \$500 million joint initiative of the Commonwealth Government and state and territory governments to promote wellbeing and better management of chronic disease.

Applications for the grants close on 26 June 2007 and it is anticipated that successful applicants will be notified by the end of September 2007.

The Commonwealth Government also launched a competition for Australia's primary schools to recognise their efforts in promoting healthy lifestyles. A total of \$100,000 in prizes is available.

- First place winners in each state and territory will receive \$10,000 worth of fitness or playground equipment.
- Runners-up in each state and territory will receive \$2,500 worth of fitness or playground equipment.

A competition information kit will be sent to schools this month. Entries will close on 10 August 2007 and it is anticipated that competition winners will be notified by the end of September 2007.

More information on the 'Healthy Active Australia' community and school grants program and the national school competition is at www.healthyactive.gov.au

For more information call Mr Abbott's office on ph 02 6277 7220.