



Sport – Sporting schools

The Australian Government is supporting a healthy and active lifestyle, promoting sport and physical activity in communities and schools. The Sporting Schools Program will be extended until 31 December 2022, providing a further \$40.8 million in funding to support schools to partner with national sporting organisations to deliver high quality and diverse sport-based activity to students free of charge.

The program, delivered by Sport Australia, is open to all Australian schools and all children up to year 8. It has a particular focus on student groups known to have lower activity levels, including girls aged 12 to 14 years, and those in disadvantaged and remote locations.

Participation in community sport dropped as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, with children particularly impacted. This program supports children and their parents to reconnect with sport in a safe and healthy manner, building confidence and a more widespread return to community sport.

Why is this important?

Adequate levels of physical activity is vital for the good health and wellbeing of all Australians. Substantial evidence shows children and young people who are active on a daily basis are at lower risk of developing chronic health conditions.

However, data shows only 18% of Australian children aged 5 to 17 years meet the national daily physical activity guidelines of at least 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity every day.

Since Sporting Schools started in 2015, more than 8,000 schools have received funding, providing more than 8 million participant opportunities to get students active, engaged and having fun while sampling a variety of different sports.

Who will benefit?

This extension will allow up to 5,750 primary schools and 750 secondary schools to create 2 million participant opportunities for students.

How much will this cost?

The Australian Government is investing \$40.8 million over 2 years, from 2021–22.