Community Support Fund

Final report outcomes summary

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## ANZAC Day Proceeds Fund

Funding was provided to assist the veteran community with practical support for a variety of welfare activities.

Activities include:

* An Arts engagement project to assist with social isolation of veterans by providing a series

of art classes.

* Support for Legacy widows with heating costs.
* Direct welfare services for veterans and their dependants.
* A Social engagement project for veterans dependants with a disability.
* Distribution of newsletters for veterans, widows and dependants who are socially or geographically isolated.

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| Disclaimer: The information above is provided by the Department of Premier and Cabinet. |

## Aquatic Access/Better Pools Program – DHHS (Formerly DTPLI)

The Aquatic Access/Better Pools Program provided funding to community aquatic recreation projects that increase participation and improve access to aquatic based sport and recreation activities, particularly in disadvantaged areas. Examples of projects supported under this program included new major aquatic centres and the redevelopment of existing swimming pools to enhance or expand the range of opportunities for the community to undertake aquatic recreation.

Funding from this program was targeted to provide benefits to the entire community including children, young people, adults, seniors, people with disabilities, indigenous, Culturally and Linguistically diverse, Refugee and Socio-economically disadvantaged.

Local government could access funding from two categories of the broader Community Facility Funding Program being the:

* Aquatic Access/Better Pools category. Whereby grants of up to $2.5 million were available to either develop new aquatic leisure centres or redevelop existing aquatic leisure facilities; or
* Seasonal Pools Renewal category. Whereby grants of up to $200 000 were available to support the renewal and modernisation of small aquatic leisure facilities in rural towns, regional cities and outer metropolitan communities.

In total, 56 projects were funded statewide to help local government replace, upgrade or develop aquatic facilities between 2007 and 2011.

The largest project supported from the program was the $45 million development of the Glen Eira Sports Aquatic Centre in Bentleigh.

A number of these projects were developed in growth areas including Cardinia, Whittlesea and Wyndham and disadvantaged areas of Central Goldfields, Buloke, Northern Grampians and Yarriambiack.

Overall funding towards aquatic facilities provide benefits for the entire community to participate in aquatic recreation regardless of ability, with particular emphasis on encouraging women, people with disabilities, older residents and people from CALD backgrounds.

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## Better Facilities Stronger Communities

#### Funding has been provided to regional RSL Sub Branches to upgrade restrooms, install hot water systems and security systems, upgrade kitchens, upgrade power supplies, undergo building, roof and floor repairs and purchase furniture and equipment.

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## Children and Youth Area Partnerships

Children and Youth Area Partnerships are a collective impact initiative to improve outcomes for children, young people and families experiencing vulnerability. There are eight partnerships operating across Victoria.

Funding supported three key elements of the initiative:

#### Local facilitation and planning

Local Area Partnerships promoted new ways of working among partner agencies and communities, to test new approaches, support local evaluation and measurement and engage people with lived experience.

For example

* *Loddon Common competencies*, a project aims to build competency of partners across the Loddon Area in four areas: brain development and impacts of trauma, cultural competency, social inclusion and information sharing and service coordination. The project developed a common framework and tools to support organisations build competency across the four areas.
* Inner Gippsland brought together experts to co-design how they might develop a trauma informed community. The result was a pilot with Latrobe Regional Hospital to train 300 staff in order to become a trauma-informed organisation.
* Southern Melbourne Area Partnership ran a local project with local young people and their families to better understand what contributes to youth disengagement. This project will inform strategies for the partnership.

#### Building evidence and capability

The Area Partnerships fostered skills and capabilities for collective impact, such as: adaptive leadership, measurement and evaluation techniques to capture learning and engaging different partners in the community. For example, a mentoring project built business engagement capability across three Area Partnerships.

The project also delivered: a developmental evaluation of the initiative which has informed next steps, communications and website support to capture learnings and engage other partners and a forum to share learning from three partnerships.

#### Data

To build evidence of local issues and the factors contributing to children, young people and families experiencing vulnerability, a range of research projects were supported. These projects built the local evidence base underpinning local strategies for action.

For example:

* the *Better Understanding Disengagement from Early Parenting Services* project in Western Melbourne, examined data of families who did not continue with services to identify common factors that could inform engagement strategies of local services
* Ovens Murray contributed to an evaluation of innovative local approach to engage parents experiencing vulnerability earlier, to enable learning to be shared across the Area.

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## Community Commitments – DJR

The Point Lonsdale Surf Life Saving Club (PLSLSC) provides the community of Point Lonsdale and Queenscliff with lifesaving services to two of the area’s beaches.

Funding under the Community Support Fund was provided for the redevelopment of the PLSLSC site to facilitate a new and contemporary coastal designed building. The grant allowed PLSLSC to undertake design and planning work for a new Surf Life Saving clubhouse and provided funding to support PLSLSC to the planning permission application stage.

The project is now complete with the preparation and submission to the Borough of Queenscliff of a Planning Permit application for this redevelopment. The application includes a planning report, detailed drawings including site plans, floor plans and elevations, a Bushfire Management Overlay report and Bushfire Management Plan all of which were lodged on 22 December 2016.

This project has successfully met its approved objectives of designing and gaining a planning permit for redevelopment of the PLSLSC. Following the successful delivery of this project, PLSLSC has secured government funding, as part of the 2017-18 State Budget to implement and deliver the redevelopment of the club rooms, which will provide wider benefits to the Point Lonsdale community by:

* Improving health and safety for volunteers and the public;
* Improving amenity at Victoria’s beaches;
* Decreasing the risk of drowning (both fatal and non-fatal) by ensuring the retention and attraction of volunteers that are able to provide responsive and adequate service to the public on Point Lonsdale and Queenscliff beaches; and
* Increasing opportunity to use lifesaving facilities for other community purposes, thus increasing community presence and possible involvement in club activities.

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| Disclaimer: The information above is provided by the Department of Justice and Regulation. |

## Community Facilities Funding Program 2013-14 to 2015-16 – DHHS (formerly DTPLI)

The Community Facility Funding Program helped provide high quality, accessible community sport and recreation facilities across Victoria, by encouraging:

Funding was allocated through a number of categories aimed at developing new or upgrading existing sport and recreation facilities across a variety of projects. Categories included:

* Better Pools – grants of up to $3 million towards the development of quality aquatic leisure facilities through new aquatic centres or redevelopment of existing centres;
* Major Facilities – grants of up to $650 000 towards developing major sport and recreation facilities such as sports stadiums, new recreation reserves and multi-use pavilions;
* Seasonal Pool Renewal – grants of up to $200 000 towards rejuvenating seasonal swimming pools in rural and regional Victoria and in the interface council areas;
* Minor Facilities – grants of up to $100 000 to assist community groups working in partnership with council in developing or upgrading community sport and recreation facilities such as change rooms, meeting spaces, floodlighting and play spaces; and
* Planning – grants of up to $30 000 for Recreation Planning and Facility Feasibility, and up to $50 000 for Regional Planning, to support future sport and recreation needs through better information collection, consultation and strategic planning.

In the 2013-14 round of the Community Facility Funding Program over 100 projects were funded and delivered statewide through the allocation of funding from the Community Support Fund.

Case studies highlighted the participation and wider benefits of large facilities, such as aquatic centres, while also demonstrating that the relative benefits achieved by small projects, such as lighting projects or seasonal pool upgrades, can be substantial. Whilst the Community Support Fund’s contribution to total project costs varies across categories, continuing to fund both large and small projects showed to provide a variety of social, health and wellbeing benefits.

Key outcomes of the program included increased sport and recreation participation, better planned sport and recreation facilities, environmentally sustainable facilities and universally designed facilities.

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## Community Support and Recreational Sports Package – DELWP

The fund provided grants to local councils to develop infrastructure for Melbourne’s fastest growing communities. Projects include planning and building innovative community facilities and public spaces that improve community connections, safety and help build local economies.

Funding has delivered:

* Integrated community infrastructure solutions that address public, private and community sector community infrastructure projects;
* Better planned, innovative models of integrated community infrastructure and placemaking infrastructure in areas experiencing significant growth; and
* State Investment of $1 in the fund has leveraged investment of $7.70 resulting in a total investment of $58.9 million in projects.

In total, twenty two projects were funded through the Community Support and Recreational Sports Package.

* Nine projects supported service planning to inform the design and implementation of integrated facilities that will deliver greater access to local services for emerging and growing communities;
* Seven projects contributed to the construction of infrastructure that are now delivering critical community services;
* Four projects have transformed civic places stimulating civic pride and economic benefits in areas of most need; and
* Two projects delivered integrated facilities bringing a range of diverse services to communities in Melbourne’s growing suburbs.

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| Disclaimer: The information above is provided by the Department of Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning |

## Healing the Stolen Generations

This program provides for the delivery of services to members of the Stolen Generations The program facilitated funding for two Aboriginal organisations, the Koorie Heritage Trust and Connecting Home Limited to deliver services to the members of the Stolen Generations in Victoria.

The Koorie Heritage Trust, through the funded Koorie Family History Service assisted members of the Stolen Generations to identify who they are and where they come from by tracing family history and providing family genealogy. The Service accesses personal records on behalf of clients, searches government archives for information on family members, obtains copies of written materials that relate to an individual’s family tree, provides cultural information, and refers clients on to service providers for counselling, return to country, and family was able to assist members of the Stolen Generations trace family and cultural information.

Connecting Home Limited provided a range of services to members of the Stolen Generation, including case management and referral to services, such as family reunion and counselling; coordination of support groups and healing activities; working with government agencies and others to improve coordination and delivery of services to members of the Stolen Generations (including communication and public education activities).

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## Local Facilities for Local Clubs

The Local Facilities for Local Clubs Program aimed to encourage, reward and recognise the role of community sport and recreation clubs and organisations to develop local sport and recreation facilities.

The program recognises that community groups can mobilise significant local support for local facility projects particularly through the provision of in-kind support.

The purpose of the funding was to also acknowledge the current challenges faced by local government in bridging the funding gap between the development and redevelopment of community sport and recreation infrastructure to meet the needs of their communities.

The program provided increased flexibility to fund community sport and recreation infrastructure which may not meet the strict guidelines of the Community Facility Funding Program, whilst still promoting stronger and healthier communities through increasing opportunities for sport and recreation participation.

The funding allocated from the Community Support Fund through the Local Facilities for Local Clubs Program, supported 31 projects that were delivered across the state in partnership with local clubs and councils. The program attracted a variety of smaller projects with upgrades at bowling clubs and tennis clubs the most common projects supported.

Analysis of the program showed an increase in club contributions to over 50% of the total project cost, with over 20% of this contribution derived from in-kind work and donated materials.

There are significant social, health and wellbeing benefits derived from participation in sport and recreation activities, including social inclusion, community participation and recognising that building a sense of belonging is an important contributor to personal and community wellbeing. The Local Facilities for Local Clubs program continued to highlight these benefits by empowering members to develop, improve and upgrade their club facilities.

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## Promotion of the Premier's Spirit of ANZAC Prize

The Victorian Government’s Veterans Branch has successfully delivered five overseas study tours during this period to locations of significance including Gallipoli (Turkey), Western Front (Belgium and France), Greece, Darwin and Singapore. A three-day Canberra study tour was introduced in 2012 for 17 student to visit sites such as the Australian War Memorial and the National Archives of Australia. In November 2015, the Victorian Minister of Veterans increased the student participation from 28 to 42. A total of 156 students and 19 teachers have participating in a study tour between July 2012 and June 2017.

CSF funding to promote the Premier’s Spirit of Anzac Prize to secondary schools across Victoria has resulted in 1,901 applications to the program since July 2012. Educational tools, presentations and workshops at Victoria’s secondary schools has supported the level of participation and targeted low performing regions. A presentation at the History Teachers Conference built further awareness with Victoria’s secondary teachers and DET promotes the program via its networks. Promotional collateral is regularly updated and distributed to schools and updates have been made to improve online information and to tailor social media such as an Instagram account connected with the SOAP Facebook page to capitalise on the preferred channels of this demographic. Past recipients share their experiences at school and within their local community and a recipient participates in the ANZAC Day Dawn Service and Remembrance Day Services at the Shrine of Remembrance.

An independent review was undertaken in 2016 to evaluate the program’s success and to provide recommendations to improve outreach to students, teachers and the broader community. The review was very positive and provided recommendations to further promote the program. A number of these recommendations have or are currently being implemented such as a promotional video with testimonials by past student recipients and teacher chaperones.

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## Strategic Sporting Infrastructure Program

The Strategic Sporting Infrastructure Program was a targeted grants program that provided funding to Victorian sporting organisations, clubs and local Government for the delivery of facilities that foster and support community sporting and recreation, elite training, sports development and major events in both metropolitan and regional Victoria.

The program provided a pool of flexible funding of $45 million over 3 years to deliver:

* Strategic local government sporting infrastructure;
* Increased capacity of regional cities to accommodate significant sporting events by providing funding for sustainable events infrastructure (upgrades, refurbishments or new facilities); and
* Development of sports specific facilities supporting state sporting organisation's elite and sports development programs.

The funding provided by the Community Support Fund was allocated as supplementary funding to two projects and assist in the delivery of:

* Stronger and healthier communities through increasing opportunities for sport and recreation participation;
* Improved liveability and economic growth across metropolitan and regional areas; and
* Improved athlete pathway opportunities.

Both projects delivered upgraded existing facilities to ensure greater capacity to not only accommodate additional participation, but to increase capacity in hosting events, finals and tournaments to deliver economic returns for the municipality.

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