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*Kyneton District Soccer Club Submission to Senate Select Committee on Administration of Sports Grants*

Dear Senate Select Committee,

My name is Ronald Cole and in my role as President I write to you on behalf of the Kyneton District Soccer Club in relation to the request for a submission received from the Senate Select Committee on Administration of Sports Grants.

Established 46 years ago in 1974, Kyneton District Soccer Club is a not-for-profit, family friendly community football club. In 2019 the club had 200 plus registered players across different age groups, gender and ethnicity. In addition to the registered players the club also has a strong Mini-Roos program (5-12 year old's) with 128 participants this year.

As a not-for-profit organisation all positions with the club are filled by unpaid volunteers. We also maintain a low fee structure to provide a low barrier to entry for all members of the community wishing to be active and participate in the world game. As such we rely on grants, fundraisers and our canteen to raise funds to provide serviceable facilities not only for our participants but also the wider community which use our home ground. Due to the lack of adequate drainage at the ground the club loses the ability for players to train for multiple weeks at a time through winter. This infrastructure deficiency incurs further costs to families, as games are rescheduled at away venues (60-100 km away); this also impacts the club's ability to raise funds via the canteen.

We believe the Community Sport Infrastructure Grant Program was designed to support grassroots sports clubs and let them determine for themselves the best infrastructure needs for their club/association/organisation. The guidelines for the Grant Program were very concise and a thorough process needed to be followed to ensure a well-prepared application was submitted.

The timeline for applications to be submitted was very tight, leaving an incredible amount of work to be done gathering supporting documents and information relating to the funding application. The requirement to prove in detail the necessity for the specific project requested for funding from Sport Australia to be awarded had to be very concise.

When we were not successful in receiving funding in round 1, we were informed about additional funding becoming available. When we got the final notification that we were unsuccessful it was disappointing. To not have any specific feedback from Sport Australia, nor the opportunity to seek further feedback, was also very disappointing. To find out via the media that our application received 87 out of 100 and was recommended to be funded, only to be overlooked, has been devastating to everyone involved with our club.

**President**  
Ron Cole

**Vice President**  
Jason Tusa

**Secretary**  
Lance O'Donnell

**Treasurer**  
Cortni O'Donnell



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We feel the assessment process and program criteria conducted by Sport Australia seemed to be ignored for political gain, with numerous sporting and community groups worthy of funding under these criteria unsuccessful due to the recommendations by Sport Australia not being adhered to under the guidelines stated in the Grant Program.

The office of the Minister, Prime Minister and others, as has been mentioned numerous times in a variety of sources, obviously had a determining factor on who, where and when grants would be announced, irrelevant of whether the recipients had in fact been eligible under the program's guidelines.

Not-for-profit clubs like ours and other volunteer sporting organisations are now left to struggle to achieve what the program could have delivered if proper process was followed. Volunteers who put countless hours of personal time and effort on these applications are now questioning the worth of such schemes if their efforts are not rewarded on merit and need. What faith can clubs hold in the future when applying for grants? We ask that the Federal Government put into place measures to ensure what has happened to clubs in this funding debacle cannot and will not happen in the future.

We also ask that the Government now fund all the projects that should have been funded but missed out.

Thank you.

Ron Cole  
President  
Kyneton District Soccer Club Inc  
18 February 2020

**President**  
Ron Cole

**Vice President**  
Jason Tusa

**Secretary**  
Lance O'Donnell

**Treasurer**  
Cortni O'Donnell