

Christine Couzens MP

STATE MEMBER FOR GEELONG



May 15, 2018

TRAVEL GRANTS HELPING GEELONG'S ATHLETES EXCEL

Grassroots sports clubs in Geelong have been given a boost to take their skills to the next level.

Christine Couzens MP, Member for Geelong today announced Royal Geelong Yacht Club, Athletics Chilwell, Geelong Dragon Boat Club, Geelong Athletics, Geelong Swimming Club, and St Mary's Sporting Club would share in more than \$290,000 from the latest round of the Andrews Government's 2017/18 *Athlete Pathway Travel Grant Program*.

The program helps aspiring Victorian athletes, teams, coaches and officials to realise their sporting potential through grants that remove the barrier of travel and accommodation costs.

This round will provide support to 206 recipients across the state.

Here in Geelong, these clubs will receive over \$5,200 collectively for funding to individuals and teams to travel to regional, interstate and international locations. The RGYC team will travel to Melbourne and Tasmania, Athletics Chilwell member to Finland, Dragon Boat Club team to Regional towns, Geelong Athletics member to Ballarat, Geelong Swimming Club members to Brisbane, and squad to Sydney, and St Mary's Sporting Club team to South Africa.

The *Athlete Pathway Travel Grant Program* recognises that in a country as large as Australia, athletes often have to travel significant distances, often at significant cost, to pursue their sporting dreams.

There are two categories of grants:

- state sporting associations can apply for grants of up to \$6000 for teams or up to \$2000 for individuals to travel to compete at national championships or trials;
- community sport and recreation organisations can apply for grants of up to \$750 to help with travel and accommodation costs related to competition or training for athletes, teams, coaches and officials.

For further information on the awards visit: www.sport.vic.gov.au/grants-and-funding/our-grants/athlete-pathway-travel-grants-program

The Andrews Government is getting things done – supporting the facilities that our communities deserve.

We're delivering the biggest investment in community sport in Victoria's history.

The Victorian Budget 2018/19 will invest \$241.6 million in community sport across the state, including more than \$100 million to improve facilities and access for women.

Quotes attributable to Christine Couzens MP

"The Athlete Pathway Travel Grant Program provide a fantastic opportunity to help our budding stars in Geelong progress from community to national representative level."

"We're giving grassroots sports clubs in Geelong the support they need to grow their ranks and help more people than ever play the sports they love and reach their sporting goals."

"Here in Geelong, we are proud of our clubs and the vital role they play in bringing together our community."
