



The Hon Scott Morrison MP
Prime Minister
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Prime Minister 

COMMUNITY SPORTS INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS

I write on behalf of the community sporting clubs in Mayo who were rejected in subsequent rounds of the Community Sport Infrastructure Grant (CSIG) Program whilst it was under the stewardship of the then-Minister for Sport, Senator the Hon Bridget McKenzie.

Like so many in my community and across Australia, I was very disappointed to learn that Minister McKenzie had politically intervened in a merit-based process. Community sporting organisations within my electorate and across the nation have together wasted many thousands of hours in the misplaced belief that their applications would be assessed purely on merit. These organisations are staffed by volunteers, and their time is valuable, especially so because it is unpaid and contributed on behalf of the communities they love.

Yesterday, the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (the ABC) issued a list of the 50 top-scoring community sporting organisations that missed out on funding despite meeting Sports Australia's recommended merit threshold of 74 out of 100.

The Federal Government should make good, and make good soon, on delivering an apolitical, merit-based process for all community sports organisations across the country that applied and received above this merit score cut-off from Sports Australia.

According to the ABC list, the following clubs within my electorate of Mayo were affected:

Score	Applicant	Funding Denied
94	Cherry Gardens Ironbank Recreation Ground	\$480,621
90	Coromandel Valley Ramblers Cricket Club	\$50,000
89	Echunga Netball Club	\$40,000
88	McLaren Football Club	\$50,000
88	Adelaide Hills Hawks Football Club	\$27,850
84	Lobethal Tennis Club	\$3,372

There are, no doubt, additional organisations within Mayo outside of the 'top 50' that received above the 74 out of 100 merit score cut-off but have yet to be publicly disclosed. These details should be disclosed, and the affected organisations should also be supported through timely Government funding.

The Government has a moral duty to make good on its promise to deliver merit-based outcomes to community sports organisations in Mayo and across the nation. I strongly urge you to follow through on that duty.

Yours sincerely



REBEKHA SHARKIE MP
Federal Member for Mayo

30 / 1 / 2020

Cc Cherry Gardens Ironbank Recreation Ground
Cc Coromandel Valley Ramblers Cricket Club
Cc Echunga Netball Club
Cc McLaren Football Club
Cc Adelaide Hills Hawks Football Club
Cc Lobethal Tennis Club