

# MEDIA RELEASE



The Hon **David Hawker** MP  
Federal Member for Wannon



29 September 2009

## RECOGNISING OUR YOUNG SPORTING CHAMPIONS

Federal Member for Wannon, David Hawker, today recognised one of the region's brightest young sporting talents, Dunkeld's Kellie Sommerville, who has been awarded a \$500 grant to help compete at a higher level in her chosen sport.

The grant was received through the Federal Government's *Local Sporting Champions* program to assist with Kellie's travel and expenses to compete at the National Netball Championships in Canberra.

Mr Hawker congratulated Kellie on her sporting success and said the Local Sporting Champions program is available for individuals and teams throughout the region.

"We often find that cost is the biggest barrier for youth wanting to compete at major sporting competitions," he said.

"The Local Sporting Champions program helps get young Australians, particularly from regional areas, to national and state sporting competitions. We want our youth to be active in sport, and distance or a lack of financial means should not be a barrier to participation."

Mr Hawker said young sportsmen and women in Western Victoria can now apply for their share of the \$1.6 million in Australian Government grants to help them to participate in sporting competitions.

"Individuals and teams are eligible to apply for grants of \$500 and \$3000 respectively. Grants can contribute towards the cost of travel, accommodation, uniforms and equipment to support participation in an official state or national sporting competition or national school sport competition. Recipients must be between 12 and 18 years of age (inclusive) and travelling more than 250km return to compete at these competitions," he said.

Mr Hawker said the Australian Sports Commission manages the Local Sporting Champions program on behalf of the Australian Government.

The Local Sporting Champions grant program is now open. To apply or for more information visit [www.ausport.gov.au/champions](http://www.ausport.gov.au/champions).

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