

MEDIA RELEASE



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



2 October 2009

RECOGNISING OUR YOUNG SPORTING CHAMPIONS

Federal Member for Wannon, David Hawker, will next week recognise one of the region's brightest young sporting talents, Portland Secondary College's Cameron Gabriel, who has been awarded an Australian Government grant to help him compete at a higher level in his chosen sport, golf.

Cameron received \$500 through the Federal Government's *Local Sporting Champions* program to help him compete in Victorian Deaf Golf competitions in Melbourne.

Mr Hawker congratulated Cameron on his 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.

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