




Speech By
Hon. Michael Healy

MEMBER FOR CAIRNS

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Sport and Recreation, Investment

 **Hon. MP HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (Minister for Tourism and Sport) (10.40 am): Our Big Build is delivering vital infrastructure and delivering generations worth of good, secure local jobs, most importantly, for frontline services. As part of our Big Build, the Department of Tourism and Sport is responsible for the delivery of 95 sport infrastructure election commitments totalling over \$144 million to encourage Queenslanders to be more active more often. They are projects like the \$10 million Volleyball Centre of Excellence at Craigslea State High School in the member for Aspley's electorate and the \$54 million Browne Park redevelopment in Rockhampton. They are also smaller projects like the recently completed \$750,000 to renovate netball courts in Logan, and I know members such as the member for Logan understand their importance and also their value to their communities.

We are investing in our communities to enrich the Queensland way of life through sport and, most importantly, getting Queenslanders out and being active through recreation. Another example of this is the \$15 million Active Women and Girls Program. There has been enormous interest in this program with 944 successful applications so far and we know there are many more to come. Local clubs can apply for \$7½ thousand grants and local governments or state level sporting organisations can apply for \$25,000 grants to develop greater pathways for female participation.

This initiative comes on the back of the rollout of the \$45 million Minor Infrastructure and Inclusive Facilities Fund last month. The fund is designed to improve inclusivity and accessibility with new and upgraded female facilities. The interest in this program has been outstanding with 171 projects already receiving funding. These projects are making significant differences in communities right across Queensland. A great example of that was when the member for Gladstone, Minister Butcher, came to my office after he had spoken on the phone to two recipients of funds in his electorate. He said that they were literally in tears when they learnt the news that their clubs now finally had the funds to fix their change rooms to make them more inclusive and accessible.

These are the positive outcomes that the Miles government is working towards. Better facilities make for a better experience and encourage more people within our communities to get out, to be active and to have a go.