

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 522**  
**Asked on Thursday, 3 May 2018**

**MR D PURDIE** ASKED MINISTER FOR HOUSING AND PUBLIC WORKS; MINISTER FOR DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY; MINISTER FOR SPORT (HON M DE BRENNI)

With reference to the success of athletes from the Sunshine Coast at the recent Commonwealth Games—

Will the Minister advise (a) what ongoing financial support is available to help grassroots sporting clubs and associations with costs in helping young athletes reach their full potential and (b) the financial support available for the Sunshine Coast Sports Federation, this year celebrating its 50th anniversary in helping support representative athletes to achieve their best, as well as promoting and developing organised sport across the region?

**ANSWER**

The Australian team should be congratulated for its achievements at the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, securing 198 overall medals including 80 Gold; 59 Silver and 59 Bronze. Of interest, 89 of these medals, almost half, were secured by Queensland athletes, including 36 Gold medals. This is a fantastic achievement and one that all Queenslanders should be proud of.

In response to part (a) of the Member's question, the Department of Housing and Public Works supports young athletes to reach their potential by supporting them to attend sport championships through the Young Athletes Travel Subsidy and assists with grassroots participation through the *Get in the Game* suite of funding programs.

The Young Athletes Travel Subsidy (travel subsidy) supports young athletes and fosters elite athlete pathways by providing financial assistance to alleviate costs associated with attending championship events. The travel subsidy provides assistance in three event tiers and supports attendance at specific state (\$200), national (\$400) and international events (\$600) for eligible applicants.

In 2016/17, funding of almost \$1.1 million was provided through the travel subsidy to assist young Queensland athletes to compete at state, national and International championship events. In 2017/18, as at 11 May 2018, more than \$900,000 has been provided to assist with attendance costs.

The *Get in the Game* commitment provides support to grassroots sport and recreation. Funding programs within this commitment assist clubs to attract new members, provide opportunities for competitions and new activities, contribute to infrastructure to meet state, national and international standards, and develop suitable infrastructure for female participants so they can be engaged in regular competitions.

In relation to part (b) of the Member's question, I note the work that the Sunshine Coast Sports Federation (the Federation), previously known as Advance Sports Sunshine Coast Inc., has done in supporting athletes on the Sunshine Coast for the past 50 years. This has been primarily by fundraising and financially supporting athletes chosen to represent the Sunshine Coast at the Olympic or Commonwealth Games and conducting an annual awards dinner recognising the achievements of athletes and contributions of volunteers.

Whilst the State Government does not directly support the ongoing administration costs of regional peak bodies such as the Federation, it supports regional sport and recreation organisations through the *Get in the Game* suite of funding programs as outlined above. It should be noted that, because the Federation does not run junior club activities, it is not eligible to register for the *Get Started Vouchers* program.

I am pleased to advise that through the *Get in the Game* initiative, the State Government has invested more than \$9 million in sport and recreation venues and programs within the Sunshine Coast Regional Council area since January 2015. This investment supports the pathway for athletes, from grassroots through to elite participation and the State Government is pleased to be supporting these young people in realising their sporting dreams.