



ClubGRANTS

**2023  
Contribution  
Report**





## Introduction

ClubGRANTS is one of Australia's largest grant programs, with \$121 million delivered to charities, sporting groups and community associations in the 2022–23 grant year.

Remarkably, clubs contributed \$50 million over-and-above the amount required by the ClubGRANTS scheme this year. The level of support provided by clubs demonstrates their commitment and support for local community causes.

Community groups including Surf Life Saving NSW, Little Wings, Learning Links, Disaster Relief Australia, the Gotcha4Life Foundation and the Bayside Women's Shelter were among 9052 recipients awarded funding under the program.

ClubGRANTS funding supports a range of initiatives including restoring facilities impacted by natural disasters, providing shelter for those women affected by domestic violence, implementing mental health education initiatives, and supporting children with learning difficulties.

Over the last year, more than \$57 million was allocated to sport, with \$8.9 million invested in education and early learning.

An impressive \$32 million was contributed to regional communities, with \$600,000 directed to Little Wings to transport sick children from rural communities to metropolitan areas, ensuring they receive essential medical care. Disaster Relief Australia received \$78,000 to deploy veterans and emergency responders in the wake of natural disasters.

These community organisations rely on ClubGRANTS to continue delivering their services and projects to the community, particularly in regional areas and small towns.

None of this would be achievable without the generous backing of clubs across NSW.

I look forward to witnessing the positive impact that clubs will have on their communities in the coming year through the ClubGRANTS scheme.

Rebecca Riant  
ClubsNSW CEO

## What Is ClubGRANTS?

Over \$1.5 billion has been donated to a diverse range of vital causes since the inception of ClubGRANTS in 1998. The scheme is one of Australia's largest grants programs, with \$121 million donated in 2022–23 to charities, sporting organisations and not-for-profit community groups to support their life-changing and life-saving work.

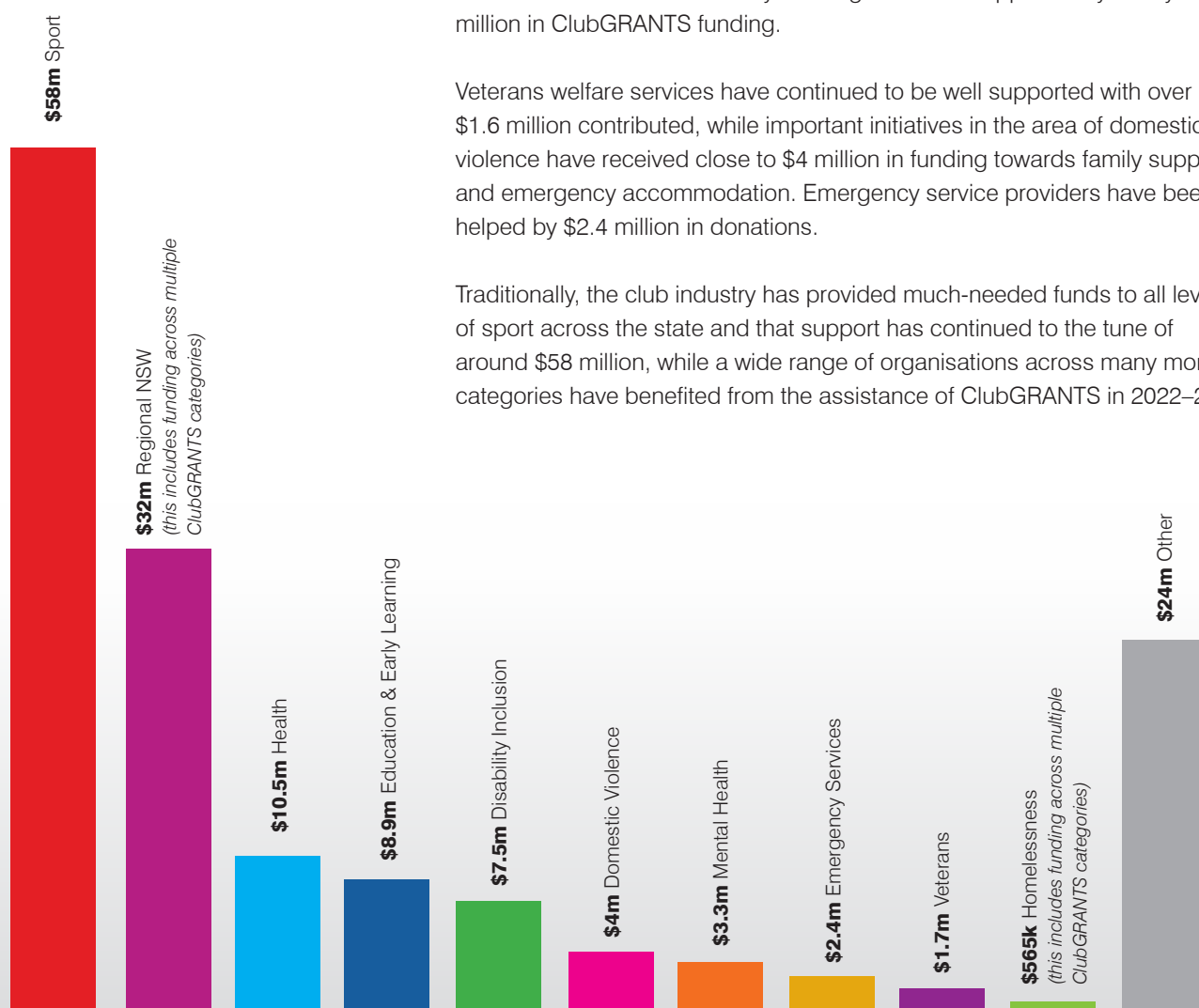
The ClubGRANTS program is a partnership between the club industry and the NSW Government, and contributes significant funding across various categories, with a view to supporting communities right around the state. In 2022–23, over \$32 million has been donated to worthy causes in regional NSW while organisations in Sydney have received almost \$90 million to continue and enhance their important initiatives.

In 2022–23 over \$10 million has been directed towards the category of health, including child protection and care, early childhood health and child and family services, women's health and Aboriginal health initiatives, medical research, health promotion initiatives, dental services, drug and alcohol programs and palliative care.

The area of mental health has received over \$3 million in support, while the critical work in disability inclusion has been assisted by \$7.5 million in donations. Education and early learning has been supported by nearly \$9 million in ClubGRANTS funding.

Veterans welfare services have continued to be well supported with over \$1.6 million contributed, while important initiatives in the area of domestic violence have received close to \$4 million in funding towards family support and emergency accommodation. Emergency service providers have been helped by \$2.4 million in donations.

Traditionally, the club industry has provided much-needed funds to all levels of sport across the state and that support has continued to the tune of around \$58 million, while a wide range of organisations across many more categories have benefited from the assistance of ClubGRANTS in 2022–23.



## Above & Beyond

The ClubGRANTS scheme was initially designed to ensure that larger registered clubs across NSW contributed to the provision of front-line services and to provide better outcomes for disadvantaged groups in their local communities.

In 2022–23, the industry again contributed vastly greater funds than obligated. The overall figure of \$121 million is \$50 million greater than the “ClubGRANTS liability” that is legislated under the *Gaming Machines Tax Act 2001*.

As detailed further in this report, clubs contribute to sport at all levels with a significant portion of this additional funding going towards rugby league and supporting teams in the National Rugby League competition.

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*ClubGRANTS have had a significant impact on Grassroots Rugby League, the Clontarf Foundation, and Wheelchair Rugby League by providing essential funding and support. For Grassroots Rugby League, ClubGRANTS have helped improve infrastructure, training facilities, and equipment, fostering the development of young players and the overall growth of the sport at the community level.*

*ClubGRANTS have enabled the Clontarf Foundation to expand its reach and make a positive impact on the lives of Indigenous young people through Rugby League and helped enhance the quality of life for individuals with disabilities, enabling them to participate in sports and promoting inclusivity within the Rugby League community.*

Don Hammond  
Leagues Clubs Australia CEO

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## Portfolio

# SPORT

**Total Contribution**  
(approximate)

**\$58m**

*Across this ClubGRANTS category:*

- Sport — funding under this category has been directed towards professional sport, junior/grassroots sport and other sporting initiatives.

## Grant Recipient Case Study

# SOUTH SYDNEY DISTRICT JUNIOR RUGBY FOOTBALL LEAGUE

**\$2.2m**



South Sydney District Junior Rugby Football League was established in 1908 as the game of rugby league was being founded in Australia. Today, the organisation:

- fields 3000 junior players in games each week from April to August
- plays a vital role in the community
- provides a pathway for talented juniors to grow into NRL players.

The organisation:

- runs one of the most professional junior sports competitions in Australia
- is a name synonymous with junior sport in Sydney.

Like countless junior sporting organisations across the state, the funding received via ClubGRANTS is the single most important element in financing the body's operations.

ClubGRANTS funding enables the South Sydney District Junior Rugby Football League to assist young families in combatting the ever-increasing cost of living by covering the price of participating in the competition. This includes registration, jerseys, refereeing fees, insurance, playing fields and many other associated costs.

The need for children and young adults to participate in regular physical activity has never been more important for their growth and development. I can't stress enough how much of an impact this funding to junior sport in the South Sydney District makes on the local community.

Keith McGraw — Chairman, South Sydney District Junior Rugby Football League

## Portfolio

# REGIONAL NSW

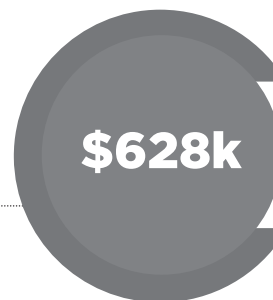
**Total Contribution**  
(approximate)

*This includes funding across multiple ClubGRANTS categories.*



**Grant Recipient  
Case Study**

## LITTLE WINGS



Little Wings is a small charity based at Bankstown and Cessnock Airports that provides:

- free and unlimited air and ground transport for seriously ill children in regional and remote areas of NSW.

Little Wings:

- is primarily a volunteer-led organisation
- completes 75 missions per week
- assists over 5000 children each year
- operates without any government funding.

Without the support that comes to Little Wings via ClubGRANTS, the service's capacity to help regional and remote families would be reduced by over 50 per cent. That would deeply impact Indigenous communities, vulnerable families and new migrants, resulting in diminished health literacy, reduced life-expectancy and a decline in the health and life-quality of children living with chronic illness in isolated parts of NSW.

The club industry is filling vital gaps in our healthcare system via programs such as Little Wings. Moreover, they have become the unspoken lifeline that so many charities need to help sustain and stabilise services across NSW. It would have disastrous impacts on communities near and far if the ClubGRANTS system was abolished, further disadvantaging vulnerable people and forcing the collapse of many not-for-profit services in our state.

Clare Pearson — CEO, Little Wings

## Portfolio

# HEALTH

### Total Contribution (approximate)

Across these ClubGRANTS categories:

- Health
- Medical Research
- Health Promotion Initiatives
- Early Childhood Health/Child & Family Services
- Drug & Alcohol/Palliative Care/Women's Health/  
Aboriginal Health/ Dental Services
- Child Protection/Child Care

**\$10.5m**

### Grant Recipient Case Study

## WESTERN SYDNEY DIABETES

**\$100k**



Western Sydney is a diabetes hotspot with 13 per cent of residents diagnosed with the disease, which is higher than the state average. In response to this health crisis, Western Sydney Diabetes was established by Workers Lifestyle Group in an effort to:

- help members manage their health for life
- combat the prevalence of diabetes in the Blacktown community.

The club group now offers members free access to two SiSU Health Stations, which in just five minutes can measure a person's:

- blood pressure
- weight
- heart rate
- body mass index.

Workers Lifestyle Group also supports on-site glucose testing, healthy cooking demonstrations, exercise classes and access to an on-site nutritionist. The funding support from ClubGRANTS allows Workers Lifestyle Group to give 55,000 members healthier lives. Western Sydney Diabetes increases awareness among club members and improves early detection in the community, helping people take quick action.

I've lost 33 kilos. I don't have insulin anymore — I'm just on tablets for my diabetes. I'm proud of myself and I'm happy within myself now. I always have been proud of Blacktown Workers but now with this program it makes you even prouder and especially as a diabetic knowing that they're trying to do something to help us all.

Brenda Simms — Member, Workers Lifestyle Group

## Portfolio

# EDUCATION & EARLY LEARNING

**Total Contribution**  
(approximate)

**\$8.9m**

Across these ClubGRANTS categories:

- Education
- Community Education Programs
- Group Training Companies

## Grant Recipient Case Study

# LEARNING LINKS

**\$2.2m**



Learning Links provides children and young people who have learning difficulties and learning disabilities with:

- skills
- services
- family support.

Learning Links:

- has six learning centres and assists over 130 schools
- helps 7000 children annually.

In the 2023 ClubGRANTS period, Learning Links received donations from 50 registered clubs, funding 80 programs across 24 LGAs.

This funding helped place psychology, therapy and education support programs in schools as well as supporting the *Disadvantaged Kids Program*, *Aboriginal Support Program* and the *Resilient Kids Program* which works with kids from families impacted by domestic violence in the Blacktown LGA.

Learning Links sees learning difficulties as an “epidemic” that only this kind of support can help bring under control and without vital funding via ClubGRANTS many students will simply fall through the cracks.

Campbellfield Public School staff and the Learning and Support Team identified a need for specific speech and language intervention to support our students’ language development. This generous funding has provided a speech therapist to support our students one day per week. We have seen 100 per cent of students achieve growth.

Olivia Pullen — Principal, Campbellfield Public School



## Portfolio

# DISABILITY INCLUSION

**Total Contribution**  
(approximate)

**\$7.5m**

*Across these ClubGRANTS categories:*

- Home, Community Care & Disability Services
- Aged, Disability or Youth Services

## Grant Recipient Case Study

# AUTISM SPECTRUM AUSTRALIA

**\$202k**



Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect) is Australia's largest service provider for people on the autism spectrum and its specialised, evidence-informed schools program is one of the largest in the world, with additional services that include:

- information and advice
- diagnostic assessments
- behaviour support
- parent and family support
- adult programs.

Aspect is dedicated to partnering with organisations to create environments which genuinely support and include autistic people. The organisation believes it is important to include people on the autism spectrum in roles in governance, research, service planning and service delivery.

ClubGRANTS funding via Dee Why RSL has been a significant source of income for Aspect for many years, allowing it to refurbish school playgrounds, fit out classrooms with autism-specific furniture and equipment, and run therapy programs for autistic students.

We are incredibly grateful for the long-term support of Dee Why RSL Club through the ClubGRANTS scheme over the last 20 years. ClubGRANTS funding has been benefitting hundreds of Aspect students and their families and plays a critical part in supporting Aspect and the autism community.

Nadja Balemans — Senior Executive — Philanthropy & Corporate Relationships, Autism Spectrum Australia

## Portfolio

# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

**Total Contribution**  
(approximate)

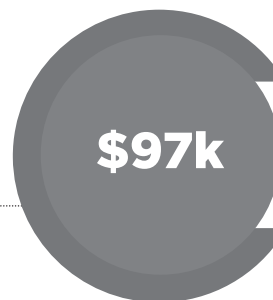


*Across these ClubGRANTS categories:*

- Family Support/Emergency or Low-cost Accommodation

## Grant Recipient Case Study

# BAYSIDE WOMEN'S SHELTER



The Bayside Women's Shelter is a crisis accommodation refuge for women and children escaping domestic and family violence and homelessness in south-east Sydney. The organisation's mission is to:

- walk alongside women and children as they reimagine their new, safe lives
- partner with the community to break the cycle of domestic and family violence
- keep women and children safe.

ClubGRANTS funding enables the Bayside Women's Shelter to:

- provide vital support and resources to women and children
- assist local women and children on their journey to safe, independent lives within the community.

The work that the Bayside Women's Shelter does is not fully funded by government support and without ClubGRANTS funding the organisation would not be able to provide its current extent of support to local women and children. With one woman a week in Australia being murdered by an intimate partner, we need to make more services available for women and children escaping domestic and family violence so that they are not forced to make the unsafe decision to stay with the perpetrator. The removal of access to vital funding would result in more lives lost.

Since coming into shelter, my life has changed so much, I no longer live in fear of my or my children's safety, of where we will sleep tonight, or how I will feed my children tomorrow. I want to give them a better future.

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## Portfolio

# MENTAL HEALTH

**Total Contribution**  
(approximate)

**\$3.3m**

*Across these ClubGRANTS categories:*

- Counselling Services
- Community Nursing/Therapy/Mental Health Services
- Problem Gambling

## Grant Recipient Case Study

# GOTCHA4LIFE

**\$42k**

**GOTCHA  
4LIFE**



The Gotcha4Life Foundation is a not-for-profit organisation that delivers:

- innovative and inspirational preventative mental fitness campaigns
- programs that build emotional agility
- services that enable social connectedness and promote help-seeking behaviours.

The organisation works in schools, sports clubs, workplaces and communities.

Gotcha4Life inspires and enables individuals to learn how to have healthier conversations with their loved ones, proactively build their mental fitness and normalise talking about emotions — so no one worries alone. The organisation strives to make a long-term, measurable difference in every Australian's life and tries to reduce the rate of suicide.

ClubGRANTS provides funding for Gotcha4Life to deliver programs and services in local communities — particularly sports clubs and schools. This helps to build mental fitness throughout Australian communities.

I want a society in which everyone has a Gotcha4Life mate. That go-to person who you can open up to and rely on for anything. A world where we seek help when life gets challenging.

Gus Worland — Founder, Gotcha4Life

## Portfolio

# EMERGENCY SERVICES

**Total Contribution**  
(approximate)

**\$2.4m**

Across this ClubGRANTS category:

- Volunteer Emergency Services

## Grant Recipient Case Study

# SLSNSW/SLS CLUBS

**\$963k**



**NEW SOUTH WALES**



Surf Life Saving NSW is the peak water safety, drowning prevention and rescue organisation in the state. The mission of SLSNSW is to:

- save lives
- create better Australians
- build better communities.

SLSNSW:

- supports 76,000 members
- has 129 clubs
- conducts over 3500 rescues each year.

Since being established in 1907, this iconic organisation has become one of the largest volunteer-based community service bodies in Australia, and is one of the top three most-trusted charities. Each of the 129 clubs seek funding to support the work they do in the local community — from the purchasing of vital lifesaving equipment, to community education programs and the training, education and development of members.

The ClubGRANTS scheme is a critical source of funding and goes towards spinal and rescue boards, inflatable rescue boat motors, Nipper pilot programs and surf skis. The investment has a direct impact on the local community and saves lives.

It all can happen in a matter of minutes, even seconds. It's very comforting to know that if a situation arises, we have people on the beach like those in the Bronte Patrol team that are trained to help and keep us safe.

Isabella Mancera was rescued by Surf Lifesaver Olivia Rosewall at Bronte Beach



## Portfolio

# VETERANS

**Total Contribution**  
(approximate)

**\$1.7m**

*Across this ClubGRANTS category:*

- Veteran Welfare Services

**Grant Recipient  
Case Study**

## DISASTER RELIEF AUSTRALIA

**\$79k**



Disaster Relief Australia (DRA) is a veteran-led disaster relief organisation, which:

- brings help and hope to communities impacted by disasters
- helps veterans grow beyond their military service.

ClubGRANTS has enabled:

- veteran suicide prevention, wellbeing, and mental health training
- veteran transition and rehabilitation services
- awareness and recruiting campaigns
- co-location of veteran-led disaster relief teams within clubs and club-owned facilities during disasters
- logistical hubs and supplies such as meals, training and conferencing facilities
- community evacuation centres.

ClubsGRANTS is vital to DRA, our veterans and the communities being served. Since the 2018 Tathra fires, ClubsGRANTS has been DRA's largest (and often only) source of operational funding in NSW. Most recently ClubGRANTS provided over \$750,000 to fund veteran-led disaster relief and recovery efforts in Northern NSW following the 2022 floods. This crucial work is what rekindles hope in communities and sets people on a path to rebuilding their lives. Put simply, if ClubGRANTS was to cease DRA's work in NSW communities would end.

**My house became a home again, not a construction site.**

Lismore resident Lisa, after DRA volunteers put her on a path to recovery

## Portfolio

# HOMELESSNESS

**Total Contribution**  
(approximate)

*This includes funding across multiple ClubGRANTS categories.*

**\$565k**

**Grant Recipient  
Case Study**

## MARONITES ON MISSION AUSTRALIA

**\$101k**



Maronites on Mission is a group of dedicated volunteers who reach out to the marginalised members of society to relieve suffering and to provide companionship as well as food, clothes, blankets, counselling, tools and shelter.

Current initiatives include:

- three weekly food van outreach programs
- a weekly soup kitchen
- a monthly home visit program
- a nursing home visit program
- overseas missions.

Canterbury League Club has been a key sponsor and has been critical to the charity's ongoing mission – the Club and its staff provide food donations and volunteers to assist with food runs.

The funding received from ClubGRANTS has enabled Maronites on Mission to operate a food van service since 2013. The service provides essential meals to the most vulnerable in our community.

Without ClubGRANTS, the organisation would need to consider ceasing certain services altogether.

Our work is done with love and would not be possible without two very important factors – our selfless volunteers and the incredibly generous grants we have received through ClubGRANTS.

Joyce Naddaf — Maronites on Mission



## Conclusion

Registered clubs in NSW continue to make a significant financial and social contribution to their local communities each year, including \$121 million through the ClubGRANTS program in 2022–23. Clubs support organisations across sport, education, health and emergency services, and have an impact across the whole of the state.

This report highlights a small number of stories that stem from ClubGRANTS. There are thousands of other positive ways that clubs have made an impact through ClubGRANTS.

For more information about how clubs support their local communities, please contact ClubsNSW.

**1300 730 001**  
**[enquiries@clubsnsw.com.au](mailto:enquiries@clubsnsw.com.au)**  
**[clubgrants.com.au](https://clubgrants.com.au)**

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*Bowls clubs are the beating heart of many towns and communities across the State of New South Wales.*

*The ClubGRANTS scheme driven by our good friends at ClubsNSW is an incredible extension of these clubs, allowing them to reach even further into the social fabric of the community in which they operate. At a time when the need for social inclusion, connectivity and wellbeing is at an all-time high, we see time and time again, the strong benefits of this program impacting the lives of our members, their families and our extended communities.*

Tim Rowe  
Bowls New South Wales CEO

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*ClubGRANTS foster a sense of unity, compassion and progress, creating stronger, more vibrant communities. The commitment of clubs to this initiative is unparalleled, showcasing their dedication to the welfare of the people they serve. Without a doubt, ClubGRANTS are indispensable in shaping a better future for our communities.*

*For RSL & Services Clubs specifically, ClubGRANTS ensures there is grass roots support for veteran and family services.*

*So often, other grants go to large organisations. ClubGRANTS allows innovation and creativity to solve often complex issues and opportunities. Many of these programs are developed by veterans, for veterans – and have a real impact on veterans and their families wellbeing and education. These are difference-making grants!*

Margot Smith  
RSL & Services Clubs Association CEO

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