

Gladys Berejiklian Premier

Dominic Perrottet

Treasurer Minister for Industrial Relations

Stuart Ayres Minister for Western Sydney, WestConnex & Sport

MEDIA RELEASE

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ACTIVE KIDS PROGRAM HITS DOUBLE CENTURY TO ENCOURAGE HEALTHY CHILDREN ALL YEAR ROUND

The hugely popular Active Kids program will double with the NSW Government today announcing two separate \$100 vouchers will be available for each child to encourage them to become involved in sport across the entire year.

Premier Gladys Berejiklian said from July 2019 families will be able to access two Active Kids vouchers with the twin aims of encouraging children to play sport from January to December and to further ease the cost of living for NSW families.

"The program has been hugely popular with more than 1 million vouchers issued since launching," Ms Berejiklian said.

"This is all about making sports more accessible for more children across the State and by making it affordable for parents, we are doing our part to help make kids active and healthy."

In 2019 a second \$100 Active Kids voucher will be available for the six month period from 1 July to 31 December. From 2020 two \$100 Active Kids vouchers will be available from Service NSW for the entire calendar year.

The aim of the expanded program is to pay for two separate sports such as netball in winter and swimming in summer, or two separate seasons or terms of the one sport such as winter football and summer football.

Treasurer Dominic Perrottet said increasing the popular rebate program will help all parents across the State with school-aged children cover the cost of their children's sports and active recreation fees.

"We are doing everything we can through our strong financial management to ease the cost of living burdens on families," Mr Perrottet said.

"Because of the strength of the NSW Budget we are able to allocate more funding because we want more kids to be happy and healthy."

The two \$100 vouchers issued under the Active Kids program can be used by every school age child towards the cost of sports registration, membership expenses and

fees for physical activities such as swimming, football, netball, dance lessons and athletics.

Minister for Sport Stuart Ayres said the expanded program would benefit sports which traditionally seek registrations in the second half of the year as families would now have access to two vouchers per year.

"If your child plays cricket in the summer and football in winter, you can choose to use a \$100 voucher to pay for cricket registration fees and then use the second \$100 voucher to help offset the costs for the football season," Mr Ayres said.

The two vouchers cannot be combined to pay for a single program costing more than \$100. They can be used with the one provider to help pay the cost of two separate terms of sport such as the summer and winter season of netball.

To apply for the Active Kids voucher parents can register online with Service NSW and find a registered sport or physical activity, club or organisation to use their voucher with.

The Active Kids rebate is one of a raft of NSW Government cost of living measures, including Free Rego, cheaper CTP green slips and energy rebates.

More information: <u>sport.nsw.gov.au/activekids</u> or by phoning Service NSW on <u>13 77 88</u>.

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