

Office of Sport

Centre of Excellence Fund 2022-2023 (Round 2)

Information session

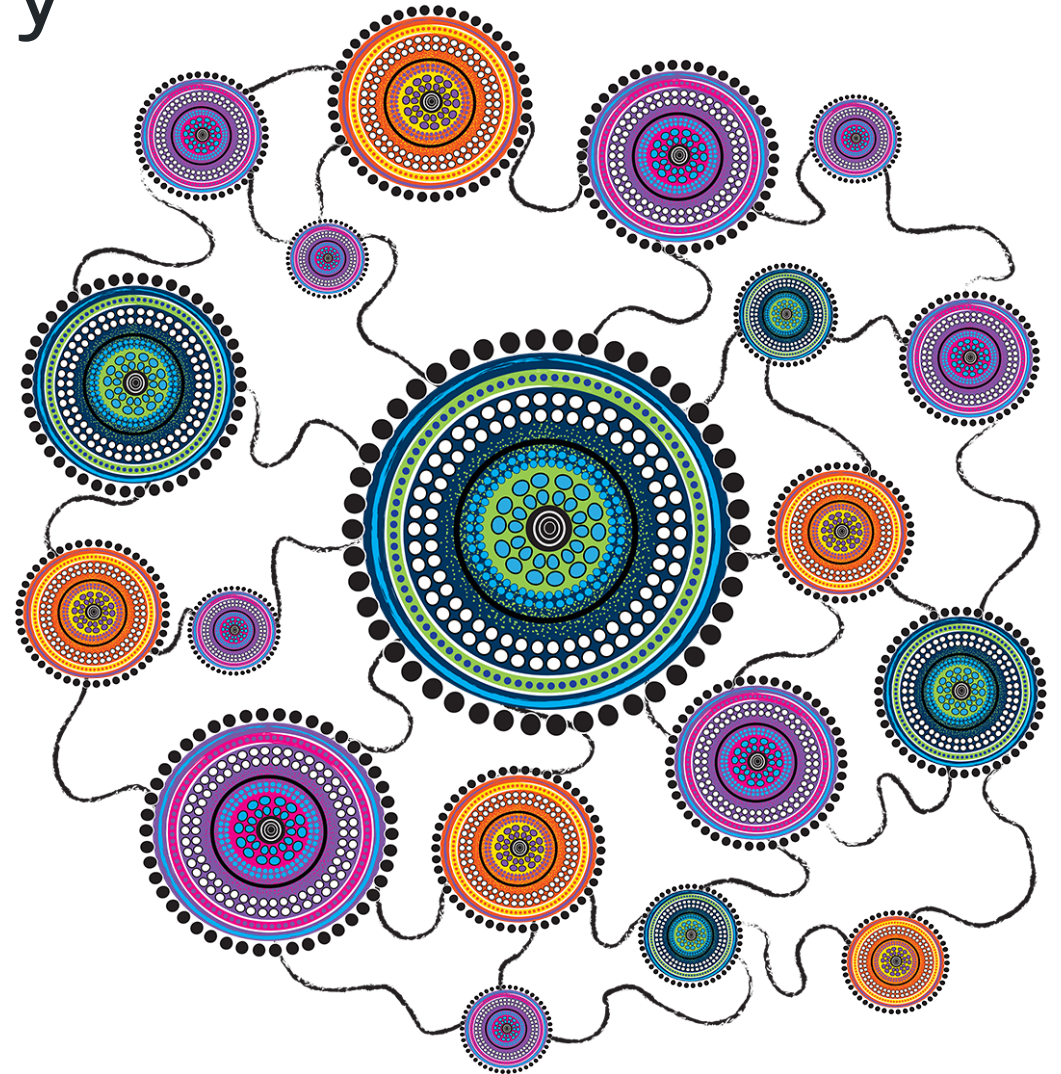
John Egan
Director, Office of Sport

November 2022



Acknowledgement of Country

I would like to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the Land on which this meeting takes place, and to show my respect to Aboriginal Elders past, present and emerging.



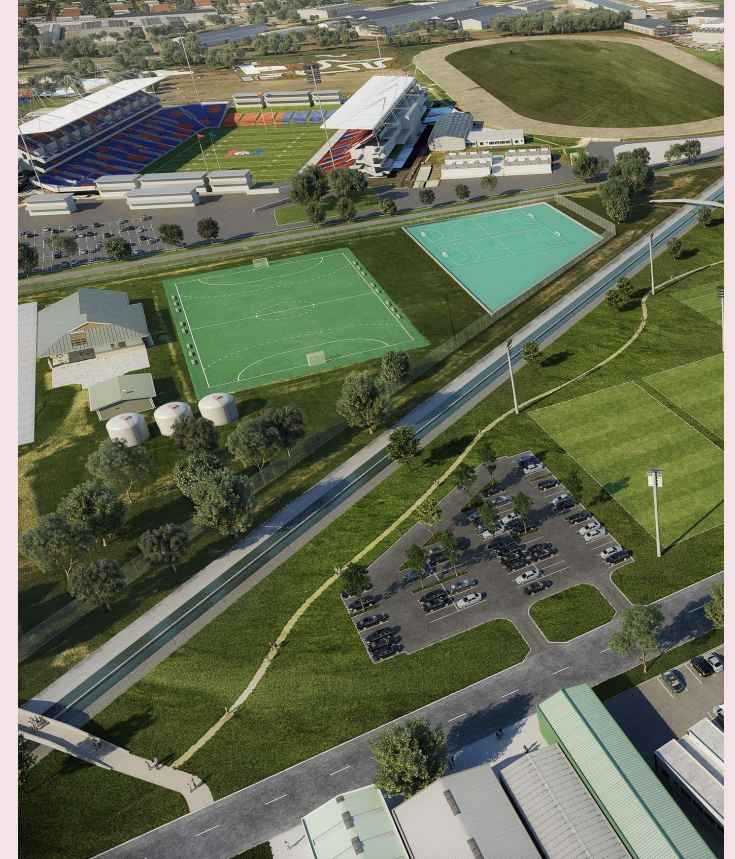
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About the Centre of Excellence Fund 2022/23

- The NSW Government committed \$150 million to support the development of integrated high performance sporting facilities as part of the 2021/2022 State Budget. This commitment continues in 2022/2023.
- The NSW Government is allocating up to \$90 million for the Centre of Excellence Fund in 2022/23 (round two). The minimum grant amount is \$5 million, and the maximum grant cannot exceed \$15 million.
- The Centre of Excellence Fund is a key sporting initiative of the Budget, aimed at improving talent pathways and community engagement for all sporting codes.
- Centres of Excellence will feature multi-purpose facilities, enabling sports to bridge the gap between elite sport and the general community and expand their community programs and outcomes.
- The Fund will assist eligible organisations to develop integrated facilities that include high-performance training and administration areas to assist talent identification and development opportunities.
- The Fund focuses on infrastructure that delivers the best outcomes for the community and ensures that the best possible value for money is achieved.





Important dates

Stages

Dates

Applications open

31 October 2022

Applications close

1pm, Monday 5 December 2022

Outcomes advised

February 2023 onwards

Funding agreements executed for successful projects

February 2023 onwards

Commencement of construction

By February 2024

Projects to be completed

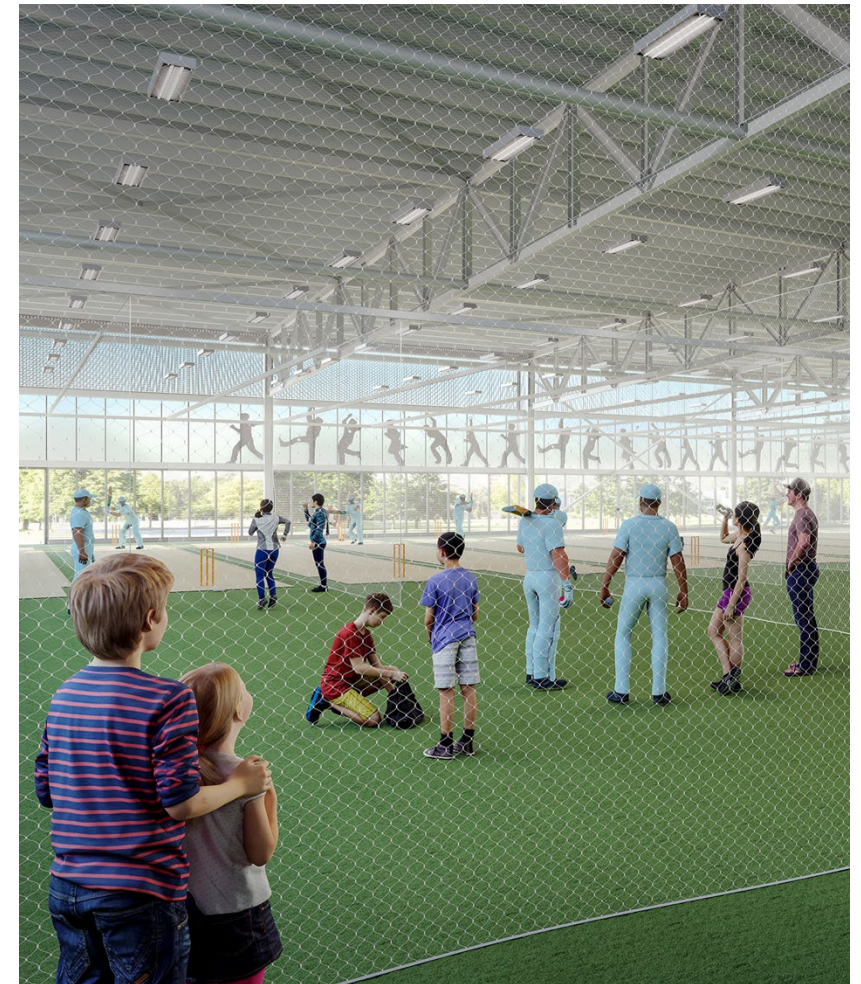
Within 2 years of project commencement

What is a Centre of Excellence?

Centres of Excellence support athlete performance and wellbeing, and typically include the following facility components:

- High performance training environments - indoor (e.g. strength and conditioning gymnasium and hard courts) and/or outdoor (e.g. natural turf playing fields)
- Aquatic and non-aquatic recovery facilities
- Athlete lounge and nutrition spaces, learning and wellness areas
- Education theatres and other meeting and multipurpose spaces
- Science laboratory and testing areas and medical facilities
- Athlete change and preparation areas
- Property and storage areas
- Administration and associated amenity areas.

Note: High performance training environments should comply with relevant national/international infrastructure standards/guidelines and support talent identification testing.



Ensuring Community Engagement

Community engagement includes community participation and other supported activities that increase the use of the facility by community members. Some examples include:

- Community outreach programs and workshops
- Development of new community partnerships
- Use of the facility for social participation programs
- Grassroots sporting workshops and camps
- Primary, secondary and tertiary educational workshops.



Fund Objectives

Primary Objectives

- Provide elite performance sport infrastructure
- Support talent identification and development pathways (i.e., athletes moving from pre-elite to elite)
- Support the enhancement of dedicated female programs and facilities to improve pathways for women and girls, in line with the NSW Government's women in sport strategy Her Sport Her Way
- Support Olympic and Paralympic sports
- Improve the level of community engagement (e.g., an increase in the number of community health and wellbeing education workshops held at a Centre of Excellence).

Secondary Objectives

- Create multipurpose and multi-use facility components
- Create inclusive facilities that meet the needs of females, people with disability, First Nations peoples and people from culturally and linguistically diverse communities
- Establish a diversified funding model
- Improve operational sustainability
- Promote and incorporate environmental sustainability and climate resiliency into design, construction, and operation
- Promote innovation in sports science, sports medicine, and technology
- Promote partnerships that maximise outcomes.



Funding Availability

The NSW Government has allocated \$150 million to the Centre of Excellence Fund. Up to \$90 million will be available in 2022/2023 (Round 2).

- Centre of Excellence Fund grants are for the capital cost of the project only. Applicants are responsible for project administration costs, nonfixed or movable equipment, and the ongoing operation of the facility.
- The grant amount requested by an applicant must be a minimum of \$5 million and cannot exceed \$15 million.
- All applications are expected to provide a minimum 50% financial co-contribution of the estimated **total project cost** (e.g., if the total project cost is \$30 million, at least a \$15 million co-contribution is required).
- Applicants that cannot meet the 50% funding co-contribution expectation may apply for financial hardship. Financial hardship applications can be made through the application process.

Funding Availability



- All successful applicants must enter into a funding agreement with the Office of Sport. Grant payments will not be made until an executed funding agreement is in place and the Office of Sport will not be responsible for any project expenditure until this time.
- Funding approval may also have specific conditions that have been determined throughout the assessment process.
- Applicants can submit up to three (3) applications. The applicant can advise of their project priority ranking through the application form. As part of the assessment process projects will then be assessed in line with the Guidelines.
- The Office of Sport reserves the right to recommend grant amounts that may differ from the amount requested in the application. Any such details will be specified in a written offer as well as in the funding agreement.
- Applications should identify the risk of the project not proceeding should the full grant amount requested not be approved.
- Projects that are not the focus of the Fund will be encouraged to consider an application under other grant programs.

Eligible Applicants



- NSW Office of Sport recognised NSW State Sporting Organisations (including National Sporting Organisations where the state body is part of a unitary governance model)
- National Sporting Organisations
- NSW Institute of Sport, Australian Sports Commission (incorporating the Australian Institute of Sport) and NSW Regional Academies of Sport
- NSW based professional sporting organisations competing in a national or state competition
- Australian Universities with NSW campuses
- NSW Department of Education operated specialist sports high schools
- NSW based sporting clubs and associations, with the approval of their state or national body
- Local government authorities in New South Wales, the Lord Howe Island Board and the Unincorporated Far West Region
- Private enterprises (companies established under the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth), incorporated associations established under the Associations Incorporation Act 2009 (NSW) or incorporated limited partnerships established under the Partnership Act 1892 (NSW)).

Ineligible Applicants

Ineligible applicants are any organisation types not listed in the ‘Eligible Applicants’ section, and include (but are not limited to):

- Individuals (including sole traders), schools (other than NSW Department of Education operated specialist sports high schools) and TAFEs
- Parent and Citizens (P&Cs) Associations
- Other community based or religious groups that do not have a primary purpose of sport and/or recreation
- Progress associations.

Eligible projects

- Applications should be limited to constructing new or enhancing existing Centres of Excellence that maximise community engagement and demonstrate enhanced inclusion of dedicated female programs and facilities to improve pathways for women and girls.
- Projects must be on land within NSW. Applicants must provide a signed letter of consent from all landowner(s) on which the project is to be developed.
- Additional information also sought includes evidence of applicant's tenure and lease arrangements.



Application Process



Step 1: Check your eligibility

- Before you apply, please read these [guidelines](#) and [supporting documents](#) to make sure you understand all relevant requirements, including whether you are eligible to apply.
- You can find the relevant information on the Office of Sport's [website](#).
- Projects must be submitted through the SmartyGrants website to be considered eligible.



Step 2: Prepare your application

- Applying for the Centre of Excellence Fund is a simple process using the SmartyGrants platform
- The Office of Sport recommends that applicants familiarise themselves with the online application form ahead of preparing the application and plan ahead of the closing date.
- Applicants must prepare a detailed business case in line with NSW Government Business Case Guidelines.
- A business case template is available on the web page.



Step 3: Submit your application

- Fill in each of the form's sections including any supporting documentation.
- Submit the application before the closing date and time – 1pm, Monday 5 December 2022.
- Successful submissions will receive a SmartyGrants system generated acknowledgement email containing a PDF copy of the application which will confirm the time the application was submitted.

Late Applications

- If for some unforeseen reason you are not able to lodge your application or supporting documents on time, you must contact the Office of Sport at the earliest possible time and within one hour of the closing date/time.
- Late applications and supporting document(s) can only be considered where an applicant has started an application in SmartyGrants prior to the closing date/time and where its acceptance would not compromise the integrity and competitiveness of the process.
- Any late supporting documentation received within five working days after the closing date/time may be taken into consideration for assessment by the Grant Assessment Panel.
- The final determination on whether a late application or supporting documentation will be accepted will be made by the Grant Assessment Panel supported by a probity advisor.

Assessment and Approval Process

1. Eligibility
2. Merit Assessment

- A Grant Assessment Panel, appointed by the Minister for Sport, will assess all applications and make recommendations to the Minister for Sport.
- Where the Grant Assessment Panel believes an independent professional is required to confirm their assessment of an application, an Independent Viability Assessment may be undertaken.
- An independent probity advisor will oversee the grant process and attend all Grant Assessment Panel meetings.
- To avoid duplication of State Government funding for projects, and/or to further assess risks when recommending funding for an application, the Office of Sport may seek advice from other NSW government agencies, local councils or other relevant organisations.
- The Minister for Sport will consider the recommendations of the Grant Assessment Panel and make decisions relating to the approval of funding.

Eligibility Check

The Office of Sport conducts a preliminary eligibility check of all applications ensuring that the:

- Applicant organisation is an eligible applicant
- Applicant has provided an ABN/ACN and/or Incorporation number and/or Indigenous Incorporation Number
- Project is in an eligible location
- Grant request is a minimum of \$5 million and does not exceed \$15 million.

The Office of Sport will undertake an eligibility check on all grant applications and make recommendations to the Grant Assessment Panel on ineligible projects.

The Grant Assessment Panel will make the final determination on eligibility.

The Fund criteria are:

1. Talent and development pathways
2. Community engagement
3. Exemplar facilities that are inclusive
4. Value for money
5. Project deliverability and applicant capability.

The Grant Assessment Panel will consider the extent to which the applicant has addressed the assessment criteria and provided evidence.

Each criterion should be addressed in as much detail as possible.

The type of information sought for each assessment criterion is detailed in the Guidelines, which are on the web page.

Supporting Documents

Documents available on the Centre of Excellence Fund web page to assist your application include:

- Program Guidelines
- Frequently Asked Questions
- State/National Sporting Organisation Statement of Support Form
- Budget template
- Facility Usage Schedule
- Business Case template
- Funding Agreement template.



Key points to take away from this session:

SmartyGrants

- Please visit the [website](#) and allow yourself time to familiarise yourself with the portal.
- As applications are now open, you can download a preview application form from the SmartyGrants website prior to commencing your application.
- Please remember that to be considered eligible, the project must be submitted through the SmartyGrants website.

- You must ensure your project is eligible for funding and that all mandatory requirements are met for your application to be assessed.

Business case

- This grant program requires applicants to provide a NSW Government compliant business case.
- A business case template is available on the web page.

Support for Applicants

Call: 13 13 02

Email: infrastructuregrants@sport.nsw.gov.au

Questions

Q: Is the 50% financial co-contribution based on estimated project cost or grant requested amount?

A: It is based on the estimated project cost.

Example:

If an applicant's project cost is \$20 million, they must demonstrate at least a \$10 million financial co-contribution.

Q: Can a co-contribution include voluntary or in-kind professional services?

A: No. The contribution must be a financial contribution.

Q: When will successful projects need to be delivered by?

A: Physical construction works must commence by February 2024 and projects are expected to be completed within 2 years of commencement.

Questions

Q: Can an existing Centre of Excellence project apply for funding?

A: Yes, however, only where project delivery has been adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, and/or significant new and additional scope is to be delivered.

Q: Can the source of the financial co-contribution be another NSW or Federal Government agency?

A: Yes.

Q: What elements should the NSO/SSO letter comprise?

A: A sample template for NSO/SSO support is available on the website. An NSO/SSO Statement of Support demonstrates project need, support and alignment for projects. However, community clubs and associations letters of support can also be provided for all projects.

Refer to: [SSO Statement of Support Form Template](#).

Questions

Q: Can you package up projects across multiple sites?

A: No. For example, providing a new gymnasium at one site, playing field upgrades at another and new amenities at a third site will not be eligible. Packaged up projects will only be accepted if integrated Centres of Excellence that include multiple facility components are proposed to be delivered within a sporting precinct.

Q: What are some examples of community engagement?

A: Community engagement includes community participation and other supported activities that increase the use of the facility by community members. Some examples include:

- Community outreach programs and workshops
- Development of new community partnerships
- Use of the facility for social participation programs
- Grassroots sporting workshops and camps
- Primary, secondary and tertiary educational workshops.

Questions

Q: Does a National/State Sporting Organisation (NSO/SSO) Statement of Support need to be included for all projects?

A: Yes. All projects must have a letter of support from the relevant NSO/SSO. Where the facility provides for a number of sports, a letter from each NSO/SSO is required. Where a letter of support has not been provided, the Office of Sport reserves the right to recommend to the Grant Assessment Panel to set the application aside from further consideration, at its absolute discretion.

Letters of support that demonstrate project need can also be provided by MPs, councils, National/State and local sporting clubs and associations, schools and community groups where available.

Q: Do you have to have Development Application approval prior to submitting the application?

A: No. While projects that have Development Application approval (where applicable) are encouraged, the Office of Sport recognises that many projects will be in the preliminary planning phase and reliant on confirmation of project funding before submitting a Development Application. Applicants should clearly outline the activities associated with obtaining planning approval (e.g. Development Application or Complying Development Certificate) and the estimated project timeline.

Questions

Q: Can an eligible sporting entity apply in partnership with a Council? If so, can Council manage the project delivery on behalf of the sport?

A: A single lead applicant is required to submit the application and if successful will become the grant recipient responsible for entering into a funding agreement with the Office of Sport. The Fund encourages applications based on partnerships e.g., sport(s) and a Council. If an eligible sporting entity applies, it can arrange for Council to manage the project delivery on their behalf. The application will need to outline the partnership model and the proposed delivery strategy including agreements to be put in place.

Q: Where can I find further information on the Her Sport Her Way Strategy?

A: The Office of Sport's Women in Sport Strategy, Her Sport Her Way (2019-2023) aims to build a stronger sport sector where women and girls are valued, recognised and have equal choices and opportunities to lead and participate. It provides a clear role for the NSW Government to work with the sector and new partners in innovative ways to shape the future of women's sport.

Please visit: <https://www.sport.nsw.gov.au/hersportherway>

Thank You
