

Minister for Energy and Renewables
Minister for Sports and Events
Minister for Parks

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Simon Behrakis MP
Member for Clark
Via Clerk of the House of Assembly
Email: laura.ross@parliament.tas.gov.au

7th April 2025

Dear Mr Behrakis

I write in response to a question raised in Parliament on behalf of your constituents on 2 April 2025 in relation to school sports opportunities for high school students, particularly in southern Tasmania.

I am pleased to advise that for the first time in decades, a formalised government school sport program will be offered for all Southern Tasmanian state high school-aged students. This is being made possible through the expansion of Reclink's Community Sports Series to include Grade 7 and 8 students in Southern Tasmania, providing a boost to sporting opportunities for more young Tasmanians.

Reclink plays a vital role making participation in sport and recreation accessible to those who might not otherwise have the opportunity to participate. You may be aware that the Reclink Community Sports Series has been offering in-school time sport participation opportunities to Grade 9 and 10 students for a number of years. It is now great to see that opportunity expanded to include Grade 7 and 8 students from this year.

The Tasmanian Government is a strong supporter of Reclink and has increased funding to over \$300,000 annually for the next four years. Through our 2030 Strong Plan for Tasmania's Future, our Government is committed to the health and wellbeing of all Tasmanians and we're pleased to now see new participation opportunities for young people. As you have indicated, the benefits of participating in sport and active recreation stretch beyond just our physical health – it can also benefit our mental health and sense of belonging in a community.

Importantly, the Reclink Community Series focuses on engagement over competition, with an emphasis on fun, teamwork, and creating lasting community connections. By extending the program to younger students, Reclink is ensuring that the benefits of sport are available to more young people, helping them to build confidence, resilience, and social connections that extend beyond the field.

Reclink Australia has partnered with four state sporting organisations - AFL Tasmania, Basketball Tasmania, Cricket Tasmania and Netball Tasmania - to offer school rosters across those four sports. In addition to this, through the Reclink Community Sports Series, talented students are identified and rewarded with a scholarship to assist them to enter pathway-level sport with their community club in the four sports offered.

I understand the Reclink Community Series programs have been steadily growing over the last few years, with over 450 participants locked in for 2025 already. Competitions will run over all four terms with AFL 9's kicking off the year on Monday 31 March.

Once again thank you for raising this important issue with me. I trust this information is helpful for your constituents.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nick Duigan', followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Hon Nick Duigan MLC
Minister for Sports and Events