

Media Release

Gabrielle Williams MP

Minister for Transport Infrastructure
Minister for Public and Active Transport



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NEW TRANSPORT INITIATIVE KICKING GOALS

The Allan Labor Government is supporting a new initiative that will help Indigenous Victorians overcome barriers to participate in sporting programs around the state.

Minister for Public and Active Transport Gabrielle Williams today announced the Victorian Aboriginal Community Service Association (VASCAL) will receive \$50,000 through the Flexible Local Transport Solutions Program to offer tailored transport options for players and their families at its popular regional sporting carnivals.

As regional attendees often face significant barriers to participation due to limited transportation options, this funding will allow VASCAL to provide tailored transport solutions such as buses, shuttle buses from public transport, myki cards and other options to support those who might otherwise not be able to attend.

VASCAL's sports programs play a pivotal role in fostering community engagement, physical activity, and cultural connection – with the association hosting events including the Senior Football Netball Carnival, Statewide Basketball Carnival and the Massive Murray Paddle.

VASCAL will proactively promote events to First Nations peoples – encouraging possible participants and teams to reach out if they need transport support across the state.

The Flexible Local Transport Solutions Program works with local government and community organisations to identify and deliver small-scale transport projects for local communities.

For more information on the Flexible Local Transport Solutions Program, visit vic.gov.au/department-transport-and-planning.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Public and Active Transport Gabrielle Williams

“We know community sport is a great way to foster community engagement, social connectivity and physical and mental health – and we're pleased to support the Victorian Aboriginal Community Service Association to help Indigenous Victorians take part.”

“This initiative contributes to long-term community benefits, including improved health outcomes, stronger community networks, and enhanced social cohesion.”

Quotes attributable to VASCAL Executive Officer Linda Bamblett

“We really appreciate the support given to us, and as such the wider community, by the flexible local transport solutions program.”

“The \$50,000 investment will go a long way to promoting inclusivity in these extremely significant community events, allowing participants to attend, many of whom would not have had the ability to attend otherwise, from all across Victoria”.