

Media Release

Energy Safe Victoria

24 September 2020

Safer Canteens investing in community sports clubs

Energy Safe Victoria (ESV) has delivered \$30,000 in funding to community football and netball clubs across Victoria.

In partnership with AFL Victoria, Safer Canteens allows ESV to promote community safety while at the same time providing individual grants of up to \$1000 to replace old, defective, inefficient or even dangerous gas or electrical appliances.

The canteen forms the financial backbone for most clubs but sadly is often underfunded.

For the last three years Safer Canteens has sought to address this. ESV has invested \$80,000 in new fridges, ovens and pie warmers. We have supported clubs that have been through drought, bushfire, flood and most recently coronavirus (COVID-19).

Successful canteens promote energy safety messages to their many customers. In 2020 that is not possible with the cancellation of most football and netball competitions across Victoria. ESV has chosen to continue Safer Canteens regardless, increasing the annual investment in the program from \$25,000 to \$30,000. This year we will also commit a further \$10,000 in a second round of grants.

The recipients of Safer Canteens are volunteers. Not only do they support their clubs but in many cases also provide meals for the disadvantaged and vulnerable.

Our campaigns include:

- **Be Sure:** calling on Victorians to get their open flued heaters serviced by a qualified gasfitter at least once every two years, and avoid carbon monoxide poisoning,
- **DDIY:** Warning Victorians against doing their own electrical DIY which is both illegal and very dangerous,
- **Know the Drill Before You Grill:** Keeping Victorians safe from barbecue fires caused by poorly maintained gas bottle connections and valves,
- **Be On The Right Side of Power Safety:** Avoid house fires by having your wiring checked by a licensed electrician. Also test your household safety switch at least once every two years.

In our first round for 2020, ESV will fund 33 grants (not all were \$1000), which alongside investment by the clubs themselves, has resulted in \$81,561 of investment in canteens.

Successful grants included six fridges, five new pie warmers, four freezers and deep fryers, three new bain-maries and two BBQs. Other clubs are replacing various smaller appliances such as a sandwich press, milkshake maker and urns. One regional club is using their grant to replace a faulty hot gas water system as part of a major refurbishment of the kitchen infrastructure.

ESV Director Marnie Williams said she was proud of the program.

“ESV’s priority has always been taking action to protect Victorians from safety risks. I am so proud to be able to do that and invest in communities at the same time,” she said.

AFL Victoria Head of Community Football Steve O’Donohue thanked Energy Safe Victoria for their continued support to Victorian community clubs this year.

“It has been a challenging year for all community football clubs in Victoria, and now, more than ever, we need to come together support clubs who are the lifeblood of communities,” O’Donohue said.

“The grants provided to community clubs will assist in upgrading facilities, and allow them to demonstrate a high standard of safety for their community.”

ESV is Victoria’s independent safety regulator for gas and electricity

2020 Successful grant recipients

Club	ESV Safer Canteen Grant
Benalla All Blacks Football & Netball Club	\$ 1,000.00
Berwick Football Club	\$ 600.00
Bundoora Senior Football Netball Club	\$ 861.00
Bunyip Football Club Inc.	\$ 999.00
Campbells Creek Football Netball Club	\$ 486.00
Coburg Districts Football Club Inc.	\$ 1,000.00
Coleraine Football Netball Club Inc.	\$ 1,000.00
Doveton Football Netball Club Inc.	\$ 1,000.00
Endeavour Hills Eagles Junior Football Club	\$ 1,000.00
Gormandale Football Netball Club	\$ 1,000.00
Imperial Football Netball Club	\$ 1,000.00
Irymple Football Netball Club	\$ 900.00
Lakes Entrance Football Netball Club	\$ 499.00
Lorne Football & Netball Club	\$ 1,000.00
Lyndale Football Netball Club	\$ 999.00
Mooroopna Football Netball Club	\$ 1,000.00
North Warrnambool Eagles Football Netball Club	\$ 863.90
Paynesville Football Netball Club	\$ 1,000.00
Poowong Loch Junior Football Club	\$ 1,000.00
Rokewood Corinhap football netball club	\$ 1,000.00
Sale Football Netball Club Inc.	\$ 730.00
South Bendigo Football and Netball Club	\$ 969.00
St Michael's Football Netball Club (Horsham Saints FNC)	\$ 702.13
Strathfieldsaye Football Netball Club Inc.	\$ 1,000.00
Strathmerton Football Netball Club	\$ 1,000.00
Sunshine Football Club	\$ 1,000.00
Talbot Football Netball Club	\$ 623.70
Traralgon football Netball Club	\$ 1,000.00
Wandella Football Netball Club	\$ 1,000.00
Westerns Football Netball Club	\$ 1,000.00
Whorouly Football & Netball Club Inc.	\$ 900.00
Williamstown Seagulls FIDA FC	\$ 1,000.00
Woorndoo Mortlake Football Netball Club	\$ 1,000.00
Total grant funding	\$ 30,132.73