

Media Release

Friday March 23, 2018

Grants offered to encourage young athletes with a disability to excel in sport

Australia's first gold medal winning Paratriathlete has announced a second round of grants available to young Australians with a disability to help them participate in sport and achieve the best of their abilities in their chosen activity.

Katie Kelly OAM, a two-time World Champion Paratriathlete who won gold at the 2016 Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, is the founding Board Member of Sport Access Foundation. The Foundation provides financial support to young athletes with a disability to assist with the cost of participation in sport.

The foundation last year provided its inaugural round of grants to three young Australians and will this year offer a second round of four grants to help ensure our young people have every opportunity to participate and excel in their sporting field of interest.

"Being a young person with a disability should be no barrier to getting the best out of your sporting ability and to enjoy the fantastic camaraderie, achievement and physical and mental health benefits that sport provides," Ms Kelly said.

Four grants worth \$2000 will be available for application at the end of March 2018. The grants are open to children and teenagers aged between 7 and 17 years old with a physical or intellectual disability.

The June Canavan Foundation has funded three of the grants available in this second round of funding. The June Canavan Foundation supports programs that drive sustainable change through sports, access, health, education and conservation.

"We came to know of the Sport Access Foundation through the Founder's Katie Kelly's achievements in Paratriathlon," said Chairperson of The June Canavan Foundation Anne Gripper. "We are proud to support the Foundation as it truly resonates with the June Canavan Foundation's principles of sustainable change through areas of sport. We encourage everyone to get behind this wonderful grant that will have a significant impact on a young Australian living with a disability to achieve their sporting goals."

BMD has funded a fourth grant which is open to youth with a disability who resides in the Northern Territory. BMD Regional Manager, Richie Ward said the company was proud to contribute to the development of a young athlete from the Territory, where the company has had a strong presence in construction and urban development industries for more than 20 years.

"We're very pleased to support Sport Access Foundation to offer this fantastic opportunity to a young Territorian to help realise their sporting ambitions," he said. "Living in the Territory with its geographical distance from the rest of Australia can mean athletes face additional challenges, so it's important that initiatives such as this give every opportunity for participation in sport and its recognised benefits."

"BMD's sponsorship of the Sport Access Foundation grant reaffirms our commitment to supporting the local communities in which we operate, and builds on the support provided to over 20 sporting groups and community organisations since we began operating in the Top End in 1997," he said.

The Sport Access Foundation is also strongly backed by BlueScope, which is also a founding partner and proud supporter of its ethos of equality and achievement for young Australians with a disability.

Applications for the grants open on Friday 23 March and close on Friday 29 June.
For more information, go to:

sportaccessfoundation.org.au

