

GUIDE TO FUNDING FACILITY DEVELOPMENT

In Victoria



GUIDE TO FUNDING FACILITY DEVELOPMENT IN VICTORIA

This document is designed to assist in understanding available funding for tennis facility projects, including new facility developments, reconstruction of courts, new or upgraded lighting systems, or resurfacing works. Depending on the nature of your project, the process to obtain funding can take anywhere between a few months to multiple years, so it is important to have a strong understanding of a) the funding available to Victorian tennis clubs and b) the process to secure funding from various sources.

SETTING YOUR GOALS

- As a club, the first question you should ask is “what do we want to achieve”? Successful tennis clubs have a strategic plan and business plan in place to support the club committee and/or administrators to achieve measurable goals and objectives.
- Whether you are a small club looking to resurface your courts, or a medium size club looking to expand your facilities and add new courts, a clear plan should be in place outlining your club’s vision and objectives.

EVERY PROJECT IS DIFFERENT

- The funding mix* of facility development projects will always vary depending on the size of the development. For example, a minor development could include replacement of fencing, lighting or resurfacing of courts, and might be funded by club and council.
- A larger project might involve total reconstruction of tennis courts from the ground up, and could be funded by the club, council, state government and Tennis Australia.

What about significant projects such as the development of a new regional facility?

This could involve contributions from club, council, state and federal government, Tennis Australia, and charitable donations. These types of projects require a ‘chorus of support’ from various organisations and can take years to plan for.

Facility Funding Options

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The first question the Tennis Victoria Places to Play team will ask with regards to your project is “have you spoken to your local government, and what is their view on the project?” This is because local governments are the largest funders of tennis club facilities in Victoria. There are 79 local governments in Victoria, each with their own policies, strategies and budgets, and therefore the likelihood of receiving funding is varied based on your location.

Keep in mind the following:

- Every local government is different, however, the common timeframe for the budget allocation process runs from November to February
- Some local governments have a direct pool of funds for tennis, whereas others have a general budget for sport and recreation infrastructure
- Some local governments have a formal grants program and accept applications, whereas other councils will require you to do a budget submission
- The recreation staff can provide guidance to you regarding their timelines and relevant policies (some local governments have clear policies regarding facility upgrades, such as policies requiring 50/50 contributions)
- If you miss the Nov-Feb window you will have to wait for the following year to attempt again, as once the council’s budgets are set they are final
- More information – contact your **Club Development Officer**, who can put you in touch with local council staff, visit the **Know Your Council Website**, or simply contact your local government and ask to speak to the sport or recreation department.



VICTORIAN STATE GOVERNMENT

Sport and Recreation Victoria operates the [Local Sports Infrastructure Fund](#), which helps 'provide high-quality accessible community sport and recreation facilities across Victoria.'

- Applications are submitted by local government – this highlights the importance of having a strong relationship with your local council
- Major Facilities Grants: up to \$650,000 is available where the total project cost is more than \$500,000. Councils can submit one application per year for this category.
 - Depending on where you club is based, SRV will require a funding co-contribution of either \$1, \$2, or \$3 for every \$1 dollar you commit.
- Minor Facilities Grants: up to \$100,000 is available where the total project cost is no more than \$1,000,000. Councils can submit up to two applications per year for this category.
 - Funding ratios in rural and growth areas mean SRV will put in \$2 for every \$1 from the club.
- Funding is also available for planning of sub-regional or regional facilities, or feasibility studies.

For more information head to sport.vic.gov.au/grants-and-funding/our-grants/local-sports-infrastructure-fund.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

At present there is no dedicated national sports facility grant program, although the landscape changes rapidly!

Tennis Victoria is aware of clubs obtaining funding through the following programs:

- **Stronger Communities Program**
 - Funding for small capital projects in local communities through local federal Members of Parliament (MPs)
 - For more information head to <https://www.business.gov.au/Grants-and-Programs/Stronger-Communities-Programme>
- **National Stronger Regions Fund**
 - Funding for capital projects which involve the construction of new infrastructure, or the upgrade of existing infrastructure which delivers economic benefit to the region
 - For more information head to www.regional.gov.au/regional/programs/national-stronger-regions-fund.aspx

Lobbying State and Federal MP's

Significant facility development projects can attract the interest of state and federal MPs, so do not underestimate the power of lobbying your local representative, as they might agree to:

- Make an election pledge, or lobby their party to make an election commitment to funding
- Fund your project through the Stronger Communities Program

Club Sinking Fund

Tennis Victoria advocates that clubs should aim to generate an annual profit which will allow the club to maintain a 'sinking fund' to help pay for facility refurbishment projects. Your 'sinking fund' is separate to your annual maintenance budget; it is the savings that will place you in a stronger position because:

- In some cases the club will need to fund 100% of a project
- Councils, the Victorian State Government and Tennis Australia give priority to applicants who make their own contribution

The amount required for your annual sinking fund will vary based on:

- The number and type of courts at your club
- Your occupancy arrangement, and whether the landowner (such as your council) has responsibility for capital refurbishment, or has a specific policy for club-council co-contributions



To assist this consideration, you might:

- Seek site-specific advice through our Technical Advisory Service
- Refer to the Tennis Australia **National Planning and Development Guide**
- Complete an Operational Health Check – ask your **Club Development Officer** for more information

Club Fundraising

Donations are a common form of fundraising for not-for-profit sport clubs, as donations are generally tax-deductible for the donor. There are many ways to fundraise (more than we can list here!), however the following organisations provide funding schemes or ideas on how to fundraise.

Australian Sports Foundation: The Fundraising4Sport (F4S) program raises funds for sporting and community clubs of all sizes for projects that seek to develop sport and/or increase participation. If you have a funding need and decide to embark on a campaign to raise funds, register your organisation and project with the ASF. Donations are made to the ASF and then passed onto the club, allowing donors to use the ASF's tax deductible status to claim tax relief for any donation of \$2 or more. More information [here](#).

Sports Community: An excellent online resource for tennis clubs and howtofundraise.com.au, where you can find a wide range of ideas to get you started along your fundraising journey.

National Court Rebate

Tennis Australia's National Court Rebate (NCR) assists state/territory affiliated venues, local government and schools to develop tennis facilities in Australia; including new courts, surface conversion, upgrading existing court surfaces, Hot Shots courts, Tennis Australia's Book a Court with integrated gate access technology, associated tennis infrastructure, major projects, strategy and planning.

The National Court Rebate is intended to stimulate progressive facility developments in line with the national court surface policy, Tennis 2020 – National Facility Development and Management Framework for Australian Tennis; as well as a range of tennis programming, coaching and competition initiatives.

Tennis Australia has developed four key pillars that must be in place at local tennis venues and championed by successful NCR funding recipients:

- Accessibility
- Sustainability
- Community Benefit
- Accountability

For more information, visit: www.tennis.com.au/clubs/funding-and-facilities/national-court-rebate-scheme

Facility Loan Scheme

The Tennis Australia Facility Loan Scheme financially assists affiliated tennis clubs, centres and associations with upgrades, replacements and improvements on their tennis facilities, by providing low interest loans.

A club, centre or association will often embark on a project utilising grant monies from local government and/or state government, as well as their own funds. The Tennis Australia loan is designed to assist in shortfalls the club may have in funding their project after other avenues of funding have been determined.

For more information visit www.tennis.com.au/clubs/funding-and-facilities/facility-loan

How can Tennis Victoria help?

Tennis Victoria's Places to Play team provides guidance to clubs in the areas of facility development and management, and can also assist with enquiries to local and state government.

Further information is available on The Clubhouse. Find your Places to Play team and Club Development Officer at tennis.com.au/vic/about/staff.



***Funding Mix Example**

Based on data from real life projects completed over the past 5 years		
Facility Size	Project To...	Funding Mix
Sub-regional (15 courts)	Rebuild four courts to cushioned acrylic hard court.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Club 24% (including 7% from Tennis Australia Facility Loan Scheme) • Council 68% • Tennis Australia 8%
Local (6 courts)	Addition of lighting to two cushioned acrylic hard courts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Club 36% • Council 8% • State Government 46% • Tennis Australia 10%
Regional Tennis Centre (18 Courts)	Development of new Regional Tennis Centre including pavilion, 16 cushioned acrylic hard courts, 2 clay courts, 8 ANZ Tennis Hot Shots courts and hit up wall.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council 41% • State Government 5% • Tennis Australia 3% • Developer 10% • Federal Government 41%