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## MEDIA RELEASE

### Grassroots Sports to benefit from Shoalhaven Ex-Services Group Community Grants

Local sporting groups are set to benefit from the annual Club Grants Category 2 Sporting cash donations with the Shoalhave Ex-Services Group (Worrigeer Sports Club & The Ex-Servos Club, Nowra) allocating a whopping \$85,000 this financial year.

The Club Grants Scheme offers valuable funding opportunities for community sporting organisations with Category 2 funding specifically aimed at supporting projects and initiatives that promote community well-being and social cohesion through sports development and participation.

“The Club Grants scheme is a fantastic way for local sporting clubs and groups to access vital funding at a local level and we are proud to be able to offer community support in this way” says Group CEO Bernie Brown.

“After allocating Category 2 funding of \$109,000 last year and \$133,000 in 2022, to be able to put up another \$85,000 to kick off 2024 is fantastic. We’ve delivered over \$600,000 in cash sporting grants in the past 5 years at a time of community need during the pandemic and natural disasters. This figure doesn’t include over \$2.5m (5 years) in sporting infrastructure maintenance and preparation to our wonderful community sports facilities including Worrigeer Links, Hayden Drexel Cricket Oval and bowling greens, this also flows on to local suppliers”.

The Club Board will consider all applications in December with the outcomes announced in January 2024.

The criteria or continuing focus for this year will be; emerging sports, disability inclusion programs, female sport participation, indigenous opportunities and participation programs, veterans, disadvantaged communities, grassroots sports programs, kids healthy lifestyles & active seniors.

Non-sporting Community groups can look forward to Category 1 funding opportunities that will be accessible through the local club grants committee round that will open in March 2024.

“Last year \$326,311 in Category 1 funding was allocated across the LGA supported wholly by Clubs in our region, \$87,500 of which, came from our group funding projects like Salt Care’s Homeless Shelter. It’s important that the Club Grants model continues to deliver local results for local community groups, not diluted by administration costs and other stakeholders influencing allocation.”

“The Club Grants Scheme has long been a cornerstone of support for community groups and projects throughout our state. However, recent discussions have emerged regarding potential changes to this vital program. These changes could include alterations to eligibility criteria, funding allocation, and overall administration.” Says Mr Brown

To ensure that the proposed changes to the NSW Club Grants Scheme are well-informed and balanced, Liquor and Gaming NSW will be conducting a comprehensive review. The terms of reference for this review are expected to encompass several key aspects, including but not limited to;

- Eligibility criteria for clubs and community organisations
- Funding allocation and distribution methods
- Administrative procedures and compliance measures
- Impact assessments on the wider community and the charity sector
- Recommendations for maintaining the scheme's effectiveness while adapting to changing circumstances

“Community groups have experienced firsthand the positive impact of the Club Grants Scheme. It has supported a wide range of initiatives, from social welfare programs to cultural and sporting events, enhancing the quality of life for many individuals and communities. Active involvement and advocacy can make a significant difference in preserving the benefits of the Club Grants Scheme for your community in the future. We encourage you to stay updated on any announcements related to the review and participate in the public consultation process to ensure your voice is heard and the needs of your community are considered.”

Details of the Shoalhaven Ex-Services Group Category 2 Grants Application process can be obtained by emailing: [enquiries@exservos.com.au](mailto:enquiries@exservos.com.au)