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QUEENSLAND GOVT HELPS KIDS ACHIEVE SPORTING DREAMS

Junior sport has received a major boost with a new State Government initiative to help young Queenslanders meet their travel and accommodation expenses when selected to compete in major sporting events held 100 km or more from home.

Local member Rachel Nolan said today the *Young Athlete Assistance Program* offering grants to parents had an annual budget of \$500,000.

Ms Nolan said the grants were being introduced to help junior competitors under the age of 18 attend State, national and international events, including school championships.

“Three levels of assistance are available based on the distance an athlete has to travel, with \$500 for 100-500 km, \$650 for 500-1000 km and \$800 for over 1000 km,” she said.

“Queensland has an enviable track record of developing young champions and the State Government is committed to building on that proud sporting tradition.

“This program recognises that the need to attend major events for higher-level competition can impose significant costs on junior athletes and their families.”

Ms Nolan said the program was open to all young Queenslanders who were registered members of recognised sporting organisations at local, regional and State levels, or selected to compete at a State school championship, unless they had already received a scholarship through the Queensland Academy of Sport.

“Applications will need to be endorsed by a parent or guardian and accompanied by formal confirmation of selection by the relevant sporting organisation or school,” she said.

Application forms, eligibility criteria and other details are available online at www.sportrec.qld.gov.au or calling 1300 656 191.