

Marie Little OAM Athlete Support Program

Overview

Marie Little OAM was a pioneer of inclusive sport in Australia and globally. Marie was inspired to focus on a person's worth and ability while providing them with an opportunity to be a valued and integrated member into mainstream community life. She believed that sport would be the perfect medium to achieve this feat.

Marie was strong with her belief that sport was ultimately responsible for all of their players and lobbied hard to have successful examples of integration showcased. She pushed this case internationally and countries who aim to have sport inclusive of all abilities have followed Australia's lead. Her vision and foresight has seen many National Sporting Organisation's work towards opening their doors to all Australians, regardless of ability.



Over three decades, Marie held many valued roles within sport both nationally and internationally and was responsible for founding Ausrapid and Inclusive Sport SA. When Marie retired from her public roles in 2011 she volunteered time to Anglicare and reading at her local primary school. While she achieved so much for others, she was also well loved by her family and friends but sadly passed away in 2014 after a short illness.

Marie fought for the rights of people with a disability in every facet of her life, from local to international level and often was the only person prepared to do so. The success of Marie's work is evident throughout Australia and her vision has been a revelation to the development of sport for people with a disability in this country and throughout the world, and is the foundation for Inclusive Sport SA.

The Marie Little OAM Athlete Support Program was established in 2015 to provide financial support for people living with a disability to participate in local, State and National programs. Through the fundraising efforts of Inclusive Sport SA, each year, athletes living with a disability and State Sporting Organisations can apply for financial support to assist them with the costs of participation.

There are three funding levels:

- **Local Athlete Support** – For individual athletes facing financial hardship to participate in local sporting activities
- **State Team/Athlete Support** – For State Representatives to assist with the costs of the Team/Individual to travel to a National Championships event
- **International Athlete Support** – For South Australian Athletes who represent Australia at an International Championship

Funding will be allocated by the Marie Little OAM Athlete Support Program Committee who will meet approximately 4 times per year.

Who Can Apply?

Local Athlete Support	State Team/Athlete Support	International Athlete Support
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individual living with disability or disadvantage South Australian resident (more than 6 months) Participating in a mainstream* sport or recreation activity Facing genuine financial hardship** 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Team – The State Sporting Organisation must submit an application Individual – The individual will submit an application form endorsed by their State Sporting Organisation South Australian resident (more than 6 months) Participating in a National Championships endorsed by the national Sporting Organisation, Australian Sports Commission or Ausrapid Athletes who have their Ausrapid Eligibility (intellectual disability) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individuals who have been selected to represent Australia at an International Championships event (held outside of South Australia) Individual must have the endorsement of their National Sporting Organisation Athletes must have their INAS Eligibility South Australian resident (more than 6 months)

How Much Can I Apply For?

Local Athlete Support	State Team/Athlete Support	International Athlete Support
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to \$500.00*** One (1) approved application per person per year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determined by the Committee (approximately \$50-\$200 per person depending upon the total costs incurred by each athlete) Can only be allocated to one event per sport each year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determined by the Committee depending upon the total costs incurred by the athlete Can only be allocated to an athlete once every two (2) years

What Does The Funding Cover?

Local Athlete Support	State Team/Athlete Support	International Athlete Support
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Club fees Entry fees (for a season) Equipment costs Uniform costs Athlete will need to present receipts of purchase 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total costs of travel including uniform, equipment, transport and accommodation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total costs of travel including uniform, equipment, transport and accommodation

When Can I Apply?

Local Athlete Support	State Team/Athlete Support	International Athlete Support
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anytime 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to one (1) month prior to event 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to three (3) months before the event

* A mainstream activity is an activity supported by the structure and participation pathway of the State Sporting Organisation

** Financial hardship must be endorsed by an individual's Coach, Club President, Social Worker or other relevant advocate

*** Support will not be in the form of a 'cash' payment. Payment will be finalised on an individual basis and could include gift cards to specific stores or payment of invoices

Terms and Conditions

1. The Marie Little OAM Athlete Support Program Committee (MLASPC) may accept or reject any application for an Athlete Support grant in its absolute discretion.
2. If the MLASPC decides to make a grant (Grant) to the applicant the Grant will be made subject to these terms and conditions.
3. Inclusive Sport SA (ISSA) will make a one-off payment to the successful applicant (Applicant). The payment for the 'Local Athlete Support' category will not be in the form of 'cash'. For Local Athlete Support, payment will be made via the payment of an associated invoice, gift cards to specific stores or other means determined by the MLASPC.
4. If the Applicant is required to be registered for GST:
 - a. the Grant will be increased by the prevailing rate of GST; and
 - b. before the Grant will be paid, the Applicant must indicate whether they require ISSA to generate a tax invoice on behalf of the Applicant.
5. If the Applicant is not required to be registered for GST, either:
 - a. the Applicant has indicated to ISSA that the Applicant is an individual and is participating in the nominated sporting competition as a recreational pursuit or hobby; or
 - b. the Applicant has provided ISSA with the Applicant's Australian Business Number (ABN).
6. The Applicant must:
 - a. meet all eligibility criteria (as set out in the application form) for application and receipt of the Grant and must promptly notify the MLASPC if the Applicant no longer fulfils all of those eligibility criteria;
 - b. only use the Grant towards the items outlined on page 2.
 - c. keep records detailing the use and expenditure of the Grant, and allow the MLASPC or its authorised representatives to assess these records for the purpose of auditing the use of the Grant;
 - d. when attending the nominated sporting competition, conduct him or herself (or if a team, ensure that all the team members conduct themselves) in a dignified and reputable manner; and
 - e. when attending the nominated sporting competition, ensure that he or she (or if a team, ensure that all team members) agree to be bound by, and comply with all relevant ISA policies.
7. Without limitation to any other rights of ISSA, if ISSA reasonably believes, at any time following the award of the Grant, that the Applicant:
 - a. has provided false or misleading information in the application;
 - b. has not attended, or will not attend the nominated sporting competition; or
 - c. has otherwise breached any of its obligations set out in these terms and conditions, then ISSA may by written notice require the Applicant to repay ISSA, at the ISSA's absolute discretion, all or part of the Grant. The amount notified must be repaid within 30 days of any such notice.
8. Recipients of the Grant are to publicly recognise the contribution of the Marie Little OAM Athlete Support Program.
9. Any personal information that is submitted via this application form is collected by ISSA for the purpose of considering applications for grants and administering the Athlete Support grant program.