



**IMPACT UPDATE**  
**2020**

# Returning the sound of leather on willow to Tenterfield High School

Active Kids is a grant program run by the Australian Sports Foundation on behalf of an anonymous donor with a passion for helping kids to play sports through providing funding for equipment, kit and uniform. To date the program has distributed nearly \$1m across Australia, with the donor selecting the recipients from a pool of applicants.

In 2019 a parent volunteer from Tenterfield High School applied for a grant and had a compelling story to tell.

Sport participation helps girls grow up healthy and confident, so when high school parent Leeza enrolled her two girls at Tenterfield High she made sure to sign them up to a sport they were passionate about - cricket. However the school had stopped playing cricket 12 years ago due to funding cuts and any child who wanted to play cricket now needed to drive 70km to the next town. It just wasn't cricket, and Leeza decided to start a cricket team so her daughters could play.

The school only had some damaged old bats and hacked balls, but no whites, coaching equipment or funding to purchase new gear. Research shows a lack of funding for equipment prevents children from playing sports, and none of the girls who wanted to play had whites or the money available to buy them. Leeza started out by borrowing whites and searching op shops, while busily teaching the girls the game and applying for grants to kit the girls out in new uniforms.

Playing in the borrowed and mismatched gear showed the girls' commitment, however they didn't fully match as a team and they found other teams wouldn't take them seriously as players.

With a grant of \$1,858 from the Active Kids program the team purchased:

20 pairs of cricket whites  
1 Paceman bowling machine  
24 bowling balls  
Wildchild 2.0 Crazy Catch  
6 Nerf Aero howlers

Wearing their new matching uniforms and training properly gave the girls a competitive edge and they play like the up and coming team that they are. Some players have gone on to play academy cricket, an accelerator program for high performance cricket players.

In their first year the team won two games with Leeza as coach, and lost one to an established team with state and academy players. Watching the girl's success the boys decided to start a team as well. Now the school has a boys and girls team, and with a modest grant cricket has been returned to Tenterfield High School.



***It made a world of difference for the girls to have cricket whites, and it's inspired the boys to start a team too. The grant has just been fantastic, and we're grateful to have cricket back in the school***

LEEZA, PARENT VOLUNTEER AT  
TENTERFIELD HIGH SCHOOL





***Sport participation helps girls in their careers, with research showing that 94% of C-Suite women have played sports***



**AUSTRALIAN SPORTS FOUNDATION**



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