

Hi All,

Welcome to Issue 16 of the OEFN Club Development Newsletter, the first for 2025.

With the preparations for the new season ramping up, now is a great time to be identifying areas where funding, development or education could enhance your club. This Newsletter will cover some of the funding avenues available, some noteworthy items from AFL Vic's Women and Girls team, Club Health Checks, and a couple of admin reminders.

CURRENT GRANTS & FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- **TELSTRA:** [Footy Country Grants](#)
 - Status: Open. Rd 2 closes April 3rd
 - Plenty of funding remains available
- **CHANGE OUR GAME:** [Community Activation Grants](#)
 - Status: Open. Closes Feb 26th
- **SRV:** [Emergency Sporting Equipment Grant](#)
 - Status: Open. Closing 31/05/2025
- **Others:** [Sports Community Grants page](#)
[OEFN Grants Page](#) - this will be updated periodically!



If you have any questions or need assistance in regards to a grant - please contact Brendan on the details below!

FEBRUARY HIGHLIGHTS

BRENDAN ELLWOOD - STAFF INTRODUCTION

It is with great excitement that I join the Outer East team. I have spent some years away from community football, but prior to that spent time with Northern FNL in a Footy Ops position, and a short stint with SMJFL driving a Child Safety project. I've also spent time around local clubs as a team manager, committee member, assistant coach, player and volunteer.

I count myself very fortunate to step into the position off the back of the hard work Maddy did last year. She's left a lot of great pieces in place, which makes it much easier for me to get my bearings and get started.

I look forward to getting the chance to meet and speak to you all in the near future! If you ever need to discuss anything in the Club Development sphere, please reach out. I can be contacted at development@outereastfn.com.au, or by calling on mobile (0422 420 929) or the office phone (9735 5448).

CLUB HEALTH CHECKS

AFL Vic has finalised an updated form to complete the [Club Health Check](#). This survey is designed to provide a high level overview of the strengths and areas of opportunity for your club, and allow AFL Vic and OEFN to seek out appropriate support resources to help.

We will be targeting these checks as a focus from April onward, however we encourage you to complete this prior to the season to help you identify any problems or lean into your strengths ahead of the season kicking off. It should only take about 20 minutes.

CONTAINER DEPOSIT SCHEME PARTNERSHIP

Local football clubs across Victoria will be supported to raise funds and become more sustainable through a new partnership between AFL Victoria and Victoria's Container Deposit Scheme (CDS Vic). CDS Vic provides the opportunity for Victorians to return eligible drink containers for a 10c refund.



Alexandra FNC has led the charge in Victoria winning the inaugural CDS Vic club of the year

For more information: [Click here](#)

WOMEN AND GIRLS

- **Women and Girls Charter:** We have seen some clubs receive their accreditation recently. We continue to encourage all clubs to undertake this process to declare their commitment. You can submit your EOI [here](#).
- The Inclusive Clubs Program is being renamed to the **Gender Equity Education Program**, and is designed to help develop the knowledge and skills to foster safe, equal and respectful environments. Learn more [here](#).

WELLBEING PARTNERS

In 2025, OEFN is bringing a renewed focus to supporting the wellbeing of people in our clubs across a range of topics. Our Wellbeing Partners provide expertise in areas such as mental health, positive parenting, club culture, leadership and many others. These partners include:

- [Outside The Locker Room](#)
- [SALT](#)
- [Smack Talk](#)
- [Round Table Connections](#)

They will be present at the Club Development Forum on Feb 16, but if you are interested in learning more or finding a solution to something you're working on, please reach out and I can connect you with them.

CHILD SAFETY

- **Child Safety Officers:** Please send through the contact details for your club CSO as soon as possible. CSO resources are available on the Club Development section of the OEFN [website](#).
- I will be aiming to provide further updates in the Child Safety sphere in the next few weeks following an initial meeting with OEFN Child Safety Officer Lauren Bourke.