

# JOINT MEDIA RELEASE



**BARRY O'ROURKE MP**

Member for Rockhampton



**KEPPEL LAUGA MP**

Member for Keppel  
Assistant Education Minister

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## **Sports vouchers level the playing field for young Central Queensland children**

The Palaszczuk Government is investing almost \$5.5 million to help young Queenslanders start 2019 on the right foot through their favourite sport.

The Member for Keppel and Assistant Education Minister Brittany Lauga and the Member for Rockhampton Barry O'Rourke said the next round of the *Get Started Vouchers* opens on Wednesday, 6 February and will provide \$150 support for up to 36,000 Queensland kids from low-income families.

"These vouchers enable young Queenslanders who might otherwise miss out to get active with their friends through sport and recreation," said Mrs Lauga.

"These children and young people are from families which can least afford to pay membership fees to take part in organised sport and recreation," she said.

"The vouchers relieve the start-up costs for low-income families and this latest release from the Palaszczuk Government is especially timely as Queensland families move into the 2019 school year."

Mr O'Rourke said the Palaszczuk Government has invested almost \$22.3 million in the sports support program since January 2015, with an incredible 191,169 vouchers being distributed.

"*Get Started Vouchers* have given hundreds of thousands of young Queenslanders the opportunity to play and reap all the rewards of sport.

"These kids may otherwise have been sitting on the sidelines, or sitting around home, missing out on one of the best parts of growing up.

"The vouchers provide children the opportunity to join a team and learn important lessons that will guide them through life: mateship, responsibility, fair play and respect.

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“And, of course, one of the biggest benefits is that it gets them away from their digital screens and out of the house ... so they can get active and stay fit,” said Mr O’Rourke.

Mrs Lauga said the vouchers can be redeemed at nearly 4300 sport or recreation clubs registered with the *Get Started Vouchers* program.

“Eligible applicants are Queensland children and young people aged from 5 to 17 who hold, or whose parent, carer or guardian holds a valid Centrelink Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card with the child’s name on it.”

For more information, including a video on how to set up a QGrants account and apply for a voucher, visit: <https://www.qld.gov.au/recreation/sports/funding/getinthegame/getstarted/>

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