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Healesville Tennis Club to receive funding boost for online booking system

Healesville Tennis Club will soon be more accessible with the help of a Federal Government grant set to help with the installation of an innovative online booking platform that will open up tennis to more people than ever before.

The grant, which is supported by **Senator the Hon Bridget McKenzie, Minister for Sport**, aims to improve population health through sport by introducing a system that can provide better access for participation.

The new online booking system will provide Healesville Tennis Club with flexibility and freedom for players that can now easily access courts in their hometown.

By using digital technologies to attract and retain participants, Tennis Australia's new online booking system will not only boost participation and physical activity, but can deliver strong physical, health, social, psychological and economic benefits as well.

The online court booking and payment platform connects with pin pad technology on a club's gate. It is easy to use for both players and club administrators, which means more time on court for everyone.

The improved online booking process will allow local residents to book and pay online, with players then given a PIN that provides access to the court and turns on the lights at their designated time.

"Australia has a long and proud history of tennis champions from Evonne Goolagong to Lleyton Hewitt and by encouraging more people to get involved playing tennis, we are encouraging all Australian's to lead healthy and active lifestyles and potentially unearthing the next Australian Open champion," Minister McKenzie said.

"As part of the national sport plan – Sport 2030 - our Government is committed to reducing the level of inactivity in Australia by 15% by 2030 and to do this, we need more Australians to get more active, more often."

"The Healesville Tennis Club is a fantastic local club with great facilities in Queens Park. Only recently federal government funding was provided to help upgrade their courts and lights", Tony Smith said.

"The installation of a new online booking system will enhance the accessibility of the courts for locals who want to play a sport they enjoy."

Tennis Australia CEO **Craig Tiley** said he hoped the new program would encourage more people to take to the court.

"The new online booking system continues to unlock tennis clubs around Australia by giving flexible and convenient access – an innovative solution that is encouraging more people than ever to take to the court," Tiley said.

"Whether you are a seasoned player, returning to the sport after some time, or a first timer - we encourage you to get back on court at your local club and benefit from the lifelong health and social benefits that tennis provides."

With the Easter long weekend approaching it's the perfect time to find a court near you, grab some mates and have a hit.

With 160 venues online national, whether you're away on holidays and want to play somewhere new, or book some time at your local tennis club, hiring a court and having a hit with friends has never been easier.

On top of the fantastic contribution from the Federal Government, Tennis Australia has committed to contributing \$6000 per venue as part of the National Court Rebate Scheme –to assist these clubs in creating positive environments for the long term success of tennis in Australia.

This initiative would not be possible without the generous support of the Federal Government who have been an integral partner, providing support for the installation at Healesville Tennis Club and across Australia.

The system recently won an award for Excellence in Innovation at the Australian Sports Commission (ASC) Participation Awards, recognising an ASC-funded sporting organisation that continues to evolve and encourage participation through various strategies and initiatives.

The Book a Court system will be available to book courts at Healesville Tennis Club from August 2019.

To book online visit: www.healesvilletc.org.au or play.tennis.com.au/court-hire

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