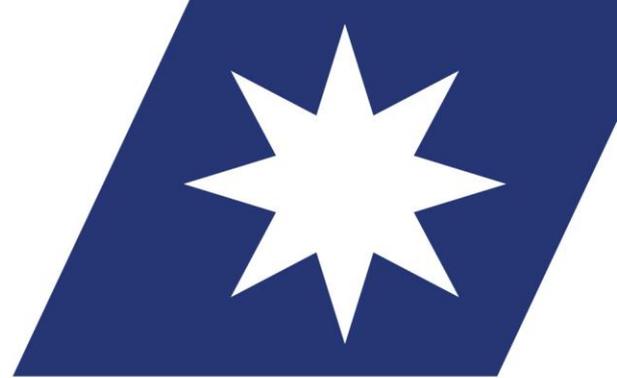


SHANE KNUTH

Member for Hill

MEDIA RELEASE



August 1, 2019

ASHS welcomes new covered sporting facility

Member for Hill Shane Knuth MP was there to congratulate the Atherton State High School, the Netball Association and the P&C on receiving funding approval of \$750,000 for a new covered sporting facility.

Atherton State High School was selected as one of the first four pilot projects for Queensland's inaugural 10-year sport and recreation strategy, *Activate! Queensland* which will see school ovals, courts and halls opened up for local sporting and recreation use as part of a \$24 million program to provide Queensland kids with better sporting facilities.

"I'm fully supportive of this funding initiative that really hits two birds with one stone - giving sporting opportunities to schools while including local sporting clubs," Mr Knuth said.

"After years of effort to obtain funding for the undercover facility from the P&C, Netball Association and ASHS, it's great to see they have not only become successful, but also that a school in our region has been selected as one of the first to benefit from the new initiative," Mr Knuth said.

ASHS Principal Tony Whybird said the announcement of funding for the covered courts gives both the Atherton SHS students and the community all year round access to multiple sporting opportunities.

"It provides significant benefits for the entire community and shows what can happen when schools work to explore partnerships with local groups and organisations," Mr Whybird said.

"We are very proud, in partnership with our P&C and Sport and Recreation, to provide increased chances for our community to participate in sporting events," Mr Whybird said.

ASHS P&C President Andrew Dennis said it really demonstrates when the community works with the school they get great benefits for everyone.

"Everyone has been working together to make it happen – it's a really positive thing," Dr Dennis said.

"We initiated this project a few years ago. It started as upgrading the old tennis courts – which are currently unused. We put our heads together with the school and Student Council, and raised funds to apply for a subsidy scheme which would grant dollar for dollar.

"We soon realised the old tennis courts weren't big enough - It had to grow to incorporate other groups, which took longer to find the funding.

"Through Sport and Recreation Funding we've now been granted a bigger facility that will suit everyone's needs including other sport groups and students," Dr Dennis said.

-ENDS-

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