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Title:
Opening new building at Athelstone Football Club

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OPENING NEW BUILDING AT ATHELSTONE FOOTBALL CLUB. 15.8.76

Cag Amadio, Your Worship the Mayor of Campbelltown, My Parliamentary Colleague Des Corcoran, Mr. Marriott, Ladies and Gentlemen :

Thanks very much for asking me to open your new clubroom, which is a most impressive addition to the sporting facilities of the district and of Adelaide.

I'm especially pleased to be able to bring along some good news, because I have with me a letter from my friend Tom Casey, the Minister for Recreation and Sport, offering your

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club a grant of \$7000 to pay for the lighting of your oval.

I don't think I'll have any trouble in persuading Cag to take that from me.

Your new facilities here are good examples of the way in which recreation needs are being met by co-operation between individual sporting clubs and bodies, local government and the State Government.

Without joint efforts by the Athelstone Football Club and the City of Campbelltown, those buildings would still be a long way from finished, and I would like to express my appreciation of the help which the City

of Campbelltown has given the Athelstone Club. I'm glad that the State Government has been able to play its part by providing money for the lighting.

The State Government's role in providing recreational and sporting funds has grown very rapidly in the last few years, and we now have a range of assistance which is far ahead of any other State in Australia.

We provide assistance for junior sports coaching so that the standard of our sporting activities will improve and also to ensure that sports programmes are available to as

many children as possible, we provide capital funds to assist the development of sporting and recreational facilities (the money for your oval lights was made available under that programme) and we provide club administration courses to help the people who put their effort and free time into running sporting clubs and groups.

These programmes have been welcomed by sporting and recreational groups throughout the State and the Government has increased the money available for sport very markedly over the last two years. In 1974-75, we spent more than \$600,000 and last financial year almost double that, just under \$1.2 mill.

We have now decided to provide extra assistance to sport by subsidising the travel expenses of South Australian sportsmen and women taking part in national competitions, and we have set aside \$70,000 for this programme alone.

We decided to help in this way after many sporting groups approached us about the problems they faced following the withdrawal of the Federal Government's subsidies for travel to national championships.

● Like so many other Federal programmes which
 ● were helping different groups in the community assistance to sporting bodies has been

heavily cut back by the Federal Government .

In the last three years, South Australian sporting groups received almost \$2 million
 ● in Federal grants for facility development ,
 ● as well as \$3.1 million in special funds for the Angle Park complex.

This financial year , we will get nothing, so the burden will fall back on the individual clubs ; on local government and on the increasingly hard pressed resources of State Government.

My Government will do as much as we can , and the decision to pay the travel subsidies is an indication that we do not want to

see sport neglected.

But without Federal Government funds for sport and recreation, there cannot be as much progress in providing better facilities

We cannot go back to the days when governments did nothing for sport. As society changes to give people more leisure time, the community expects its governments to assist groups which are working to improve sporting and recreational facilities so that as many people as possible can take part in the large number of sports and activities readily available within the community.

We will see more complexes such as this one, which caters for many sports including football, basketball, baseball, softball and cricket. Very many people will use these facilities and get personal enjoyment and satisfaction from them.

On behalf of the Government I would like to congratulate your Club on such a marvellous achievement, and I also want to congratulate Cambelltown City Council for encouraging and making possible this fine addition to the district.

I have great pleasure in declaring these

new clubrooms open.

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