

Submission to Treasury “Building Community – ministerial guidelines for community foundations”

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Introduction

[Donnybrook](#) is a small town 2.5hrs south-west of Perth. Approximately half of the ~6,200 residents live within the town and the rest across rural properties and small hamlets across the wider Shire area.

The Donnybrook Junior Sport Alliance (DJSA) was established in October 2024 in response to youth disadvantage faced by those in a regional community. As per our governing document, we seek to enhance the following charitable purposes:

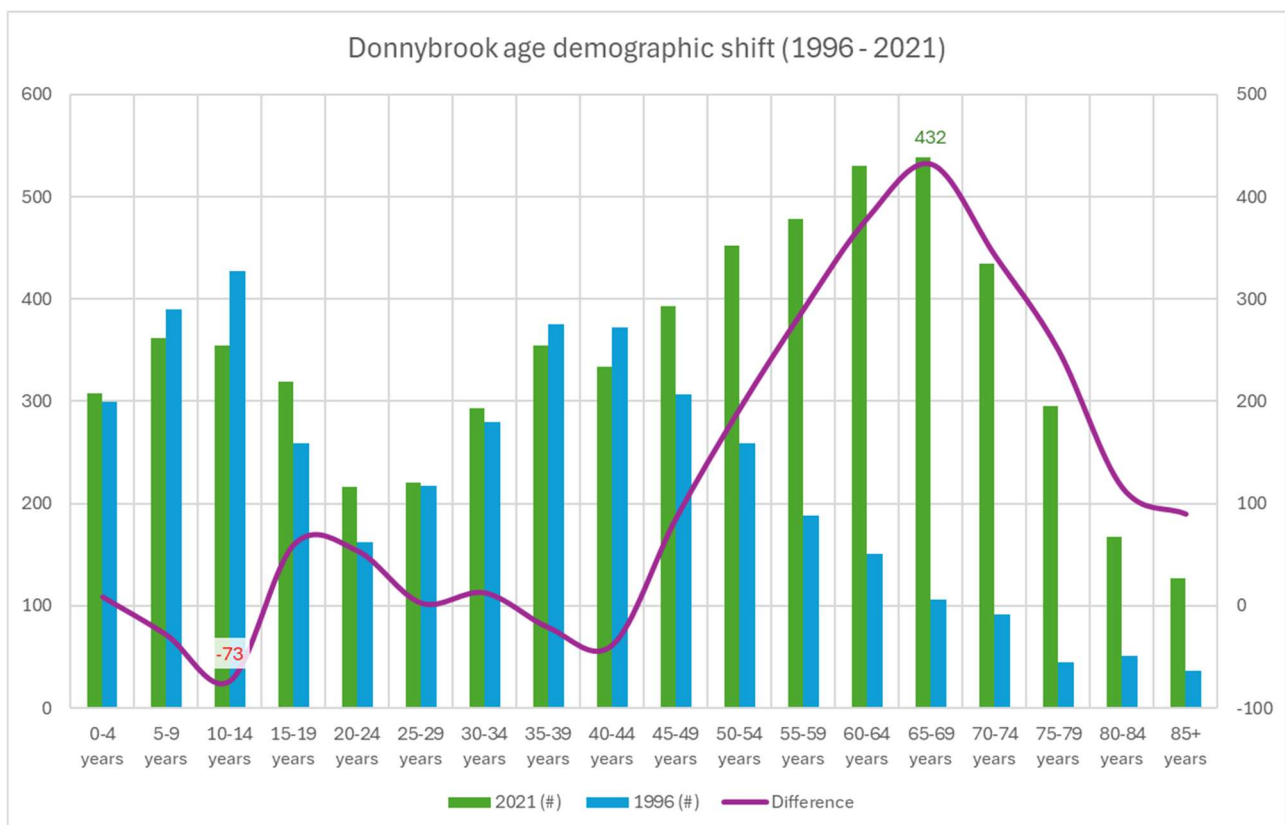
- **Advancing culture:** Support local community groups in promoting regional identity and fostering a sense of belonging through events, education, and initiatives.
- **Advancing social or public welfare:** Address the disadvantages faced by youth in regional areas by facilitating access to social interactions and promoting healthier lifestyles through organised sports programs and recreational activities.
- **Advancing community development:** Enhance community cohesion by facilitating collaboration among community groups, supporting joint initiatives, and providing platforms for shared resources and communication.

My name is Tyler Hall, and I started the work to establish the DJSA back in August 2024 after hearing multiple incidences spanning multiple years of local youth being disadvantaged through cancellation of their sports due in part to difficulties faced by regional communities.

Ageing population in the spotlight

The community has gone through a rapid demographic change with the ageing population exploding thanks to healthier and longer living but more-so in Donnybrook's case, it's attractiveness as a tree-change destination for older persons.

Figure 1 - Donnybrook changing age demographic



A quick look at other towns in regional south-west of W.A. show a similar picture.

Table 1 - average age and % change

Location	1996	2021	Change (yrs)
Bridgetown-Greenbushes	35.3	50.8	↑ 15.3
Bunbury	32.1	42.4	↑ 10.3
Busselton	35.4	44.5	↑ 9.1
Collie	32.9	43.9	↑ 11.1
Denmark	36.8	50.4	↑ 13.6
Donnybrook-Balingup	33.5	48.7	↑ 15.9
Manjimup	32.5	47.1	↑ 14.6
Nannup	36.2	56.0	↑ 19.8
Western Australia	34.4	38.0	↑ 3.6

Why focus on changing demographic?

To put it simply, it is one of the root causes with supporting data most accessible via the Australian Bureau of Statistics. This demographic shift, marked by a significant increase in total residents over 50—from 23.1% in 1996 to 48.9% in 2021—has contributed to challenges in resource allocation, youth opportunities, and generational connectivity.

The DJSA is committed to addressing these challenges through targeted strategies:

RESOURCE ALLOCATION AND COMPETITION

The growing older population necessitates a reallocation of resources, potentially limiting support for youth programs. To counter this, DJSA actively seeks external funding beyond local sources, including government grants, corporate sponsorships, and philanthropic contributions. This approach ensures that youth initiatives receive adequate support without straining community resources.

DECLINE IN YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

Diminished community engagement has reduced volunteers and financial backing for youth activities, leading to fewer opportunities for young residents. DJSA addresses this by:

- **Volunteer Recruitment:** Implementing campaigns to attract volunteers across all age groups, emphasising the mutual benefits of community involvement.
- **Financial Support:** Organising fundraising events and collaborating with businesses to secure sponsorships dedicated to youth programs.
- **Program Accessibility:** Offering affordable or free sports programs to ensure all youth have access to healthy living and social interaction opportunities.

GENERATIONAL DISCONNECT

The influx of older residents can lead to a disconnect with younger community members. DJSA fosters intergenerational understanding by:

- *Intergenerational Programs:* Creating initiatives where older adults mentor youth in sports and recreational activities, promoting knowledge exchange and mutual respect.
- *Community Events:* Hosting events that encourage participation from all age groups, strengthening community bonds.
- *Educational Workshops:* Facilitating sessions that highlight the importance of intergenerational collaboration and the shared benefits of a cohesive community.

Through implementation of these strategies, DJSA aims to bridge generational gaps, enhance youth opportunities, and ensure equitable resource distribution, fostering a resilient and united Donnybrook community.

Difficulties registering and accessing funding

As a newly formed Unincorporated Association, the DJSA has zero experience and zero financial support and commence it's undertaking. This would not be uncommon for many regional and small community groups like ours.

Better access to simpler legislation and more community centred processes I would hope gives rise to a more friendly operational environment.

Closing statement

The Donnybrook Junior Sport Alliance (DJSA) recognises that relying solely on local funding is insufficient to fulfill our mission effectively. A specific category to achieve Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status, in conjunction with registration through the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC), will enable us to access a broader range of philanthropic resources and foster collaborative partnerships with like-minded organisations. This strategic positioning is essential to secure the necessary support and funding to advance our objectives and serve the community more effectively.

The DJSA fully supports the proposed change, however, we acknowledge that organisations with limited resources and expertise (like DJSA) will encounter challenges in navigating the complexities of these reforms. Therefore, we recommend that the implementation of this expansion be accompanied by comprehensive education and support initiatives, such as workshops, guidance materials, and advisory services, to ensure that all eligible organisations can effectively understand and utilise the benefits of the new DGR categories.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this submission.

Regards,

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