



Whitfield State School

Each striving for the peak

Go For Gold Funding Submission – Whitfield Community Indoor Field Sports Facility

Whitfield State School has applied for funding under the Queensland Government's 'Go for Gold' program. The total quantum of funding being sought in category 2 is \$3million with another \$100,000 to be funded by our P&C.

The Go for Gold program aims to encourage greater physical activity in sports participation in schools across the state, getting more children, more active, more often; inspiring young Queenslanders and their communities to participate in sports of all types and at all levels. We believe that our application strongly reflects the values of this program and public value for investment as well.

Sport: a clear long-run priority at our school

For over 30 years our school has been a leader in primary school sport in this region – coordinating and hosting annual professional development days for regional HPE staff, implementing the broadest and best sports programs of any primary school, and culminating in our strong Peak Sport and Fitness Academy.

Whitfield State School is one of the only stand-alone primary schools in Queensland with a state endorsed Program of Excellence for sport.

Sport plays a crucial role in children's development at our school, offering numerous benefits that extend far beyond the realm of physical fitness. We believe engaging in sports activities not only promotes a healthy lifestyle but also cultivates essential lifelong skills and personal/ social capabilities.

Our Facility Design Focus – Indoor/ undercover Field Sports

Lack of sufficient undercover infrastructure severely limits sports activities in our school, for our children. (See infrastructure comparison)

The tropical climate means that for all of first term, as well as weeks at a time throughout the year, our field spaces and play areas are out of action due to being waterlogged. Evidence of this is reflected in a number of factors:

- **Meteorologically**, on average, over 155 days per year in Cairns are rain affected.
- **Topographically** the city's water table and our school's placement with a drain on 3 sides increases the standing water and running underground springs. Further exacerbating rainfall impacts

Term 1 is the key training and preparation time for connecting children with the majority of field sports' seasons. It is for this reason that we believe it is critical for both our school and community to have access to a purpose-built indoor field sports facility.

A quality undercover synthetic turf-based sports facility would allow for the popular sports for our children and community to be maintained and expanded. Field sport offerings through the 'wet season times' are critical to competitive and participatory sporting activities. The images to the right show an exemplar of the facility we are looking to build.

These plans include:

Competitive Line marking focus – Hockey, Futsal/ Soccer and Cricket



Example images of Indoor field sport facility

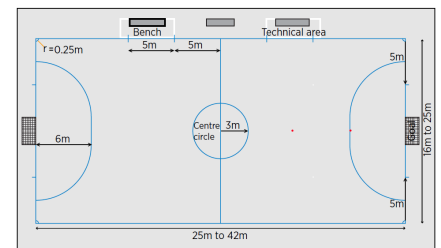
Resilience, Responsibility, Respect



Additional training space focus – AFL and Tennis

General construction design elements:

- Shed size of 42m x 24m x 7m
- Synthetic turf is 36mx 18m and line marked. Concrete runoff surrounds - 3m
- Internal lighting and Fans
- Securable with open sided cage to allow for airflow
- Storage shed (added to length of shed)
- All Ability - unisex toilets (added to length of shed)
- Constructed with protection from balls e.g. dropdown netting and lower level panelling for walls



Our long term values of the importance of an All-ability focus – growing athletes on the same basis

Annually, approximately 20% of our school's children meet criteria under the Disability Discrimination Act for support. With a significant proportion of these children requiring extensive and substantial support to access learning on the same basis as their peers, access to participation in sport is important to our school community.

Connecting our students with disabilities to sport and having them see themselves as future para-athletes has long been a priority for our school. Since 2014 staff of our school have coordinated with all local sports to conduct an annual all-abilities sports day, where approximately 350 students from across Cairns participate in modified sports with their teachers and development officers from across Cairns.

Given this history and priority our school makes the commitment to never charge facility hire fees to any activity that has the purpose of growing all-ability modified sport.

Community access – A long term master planned need at our school

For several years, our school has had an Indoor Field Sports Facility on our master plan. Our school community has prioritized this need because when we instill a love for sports at a young age, we empower children to lead active, confident, and well-rounded lives.

Our school master plan and strategic infrastructure planning places the Indoor Field Sports Facility adjacent to the school's fence line with nearby parking and simplified access day and night to enable high levels of community group use.

Through sports, children learn the value of teamwork, discipline, perseverance, and goal-setting, which are vital traits that contribute to their personal growth. Moreover, we believe participation in sports fosters social interaction, helping children build friendships and develop a sense of camaraderie. The competitive nature of sports teaches them how to handle success and failure gracefully, preparing them for challenges they may encounter throughout their lives.



School master plan - site overview