

RELIEF FOR CENTRAL COAST RUGBY LEAGUE FAMILIES

Significant changes to the popular “Active Kids” voucher program has meant that financial support has ceased or significantly reduced for many families due to the new means tested criteria. This has left many local families wondering how they’ll meet registration fees for their kids with ever increasing pressure on the family budget. In response to this, The Wyong Leagues Group has launched the Junior Rugby League Subsidy program to take the sting out of registration fees for all Clubs in the Central Coast Rugby League community, unless that Club already provides a subsidy. The subsidy will in effect take \$100 off registration fees for players registered to play in the 2024 season in the Under 5s to Under 13s age groups. The program is anticipated to benefit over 3,000 local kids at a cost of more than \$300,000.

This move follows the lead of a similar program launched by Canterbury Leagues earlier this month. Their region, much like the Central Coast, had a significant decrease in participants across the younger age group in Rugby League. After Canterbury Leagues launched their program, they experienced a massive uptake in registrations across the region and Wyong Leagues Group believes a similar growth in the sport will be seen in our region as well.

Ben Coghlan, Wyong Leagues Group CEO stated “For the future health of the Sport here on the Coast we must do all we can to encourage participation at the Junior level. We know that plenty of families are finding it tough right now and with so many feeling the pinch, we believe, as a major player in Rugby League, that we should do all we can to remove barriers for involvement. The benefits to the Community that kids participation in team sport provides are way too important for us to ignore.”

Joe Smith, Wyong Leagues Football Chairperson stated “When Ben brought the idea to the Board, we all knew this was a great initiative. It meant kids across the entire Coast from Umina to Northern Lakes would be receiving a subsidy. Beyond just the support for local families we know a strong junior base is vital to ensuring the senior competition thrives as well.”

Nathan Waugh, Chairman of Rugby League Central Coast stated, “We are thrilled to announce the registration subsidy program by Wyong Leagues Group, providing \$100 towards the registration fee in season 2024 to all junior rugby league players in the U5 to U13 age groups. This includes players that have already registered prior to this announcement. This invaluable support will significantly ease the financial burden on families, ensuring that every child has the opportunity to participate in our beloved sport. We extend our deepest gratitude to Ben Coghlan, CEO, the Board and entire team at Wyong Leagues Group for the unwavering commitment to our community, youth development and the sustainable growth of rugby league in our region.”

For further information on the Wyong Leagues Group Junior Rugby League Subsidy program, visit www.wyongleaguesgroup.com.au/jrlsubsidy

