



## The Hon Catherine King MP

Minister for Regional Australia, Local Government and Territories



Reference: C13/1005

The Hon John Murphy MP  
Chair  
Standing Committee on Petitions  
Parliament of Australia  
House of Representatives  
PO Box 6021  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

17 JUL 2013

Dear Mr ~~Murphy~~

Thank you for your letter dated 30 May 2013, addressed to the Hon Anthony Albanese MP, former Minister for Regional Development and Local Government, regarding a petition for funding for a state-of-the-art multipurpose gymnastics facility in Mackay.

The Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport administers the Regional Development Australia Fund (RDAF), which supports the immediate and critical needs of regional Australia. The RDAF is a national program to support Australia's regions and enhance their wellbeing and economic development. It ensures that new investments build on strengths and characteristics and opportunities in Australia's diverse regions.

The first four funding rounds of the RDAF have delivered significant benefits to regional communities by providing \$570 million in funding for over 200 infrastructure projects.

A fifth round of the RDAF has been announced. I encourage the petitioners to monitor my Department's website at [www.regional.gov.au](http://www.regional.gov.au) for details.

In addition, the Australian Government has a number of grants programs in place that may be of assistance to the petitioners. More information on these programs, as well as those offered by state and territory governments, can be found on the website at [www.myregion.gov.au](http://www.myregion.gov.au).

Thank you for raising this matter.

Yours sincerely

CATHERINE KING