Applicant: Football Futures Foundation Limited
Project Title: Miniballers Karratha: Early Inclusion for Young Children

Description of organisation - Football Futures Foundation is a Western Australian charity that uses football as a tool to support inclusion, community participation and wellbeing for children and young people who experience barriers to engagement. The organisation delivers programs across metropolitan and regional Western Australia and works in partnership with sporting and community organisations to increase participation opportunities.

Description of project – The project seeks funding to introduce the Miniballers program to Karratha. The program is designed for children aged 0-8 years with developmental delay, autism and other additional needs and would provide weekly football-based activity sessions over four school terms. The proposal includes coach training, equipment, venue hire, family engagement activities and delivery of a community come-and-try day. The project aims to provide early participation opportunities and support children and families to engage in sport and community activities.

Project Budget – Income (includes donations, volunteer labour, additional grant funding, organisations contribution)		
City of Karratha Large Community Grant	Not Confirmed	$30,349
Football Futures Foundation Contribution	Confirmed	$5,000
	INCOME TOTAL	**$35,349**

Project Budget – Expenditure	
Coach Wages	$13,209
Equipment	$3,500
Venue Hire	$10,240
Senior Coach Travel and Accommodation	$1,600
Senior Coach Fee	$1,000
Marketing and Communications	$800
Coordination and Travel	$2,000
Coach Training and Accreditation	$3,000
EXPENDITURE TOTAL	**$35,349**

City of Karratha Funding Received Last 3 years	
	$0

Key Considerations

- The program is designed for children aged 0-8 years with developmental delay, autism and other additional needs.
- Participation numbers were anticipated to be approximately 10 children per term, with around 20 children and their families participating across the first year of delivery.
- Venue hire is approximately 30% of the total project costs but venue arrangements had not been confirmed at the time of assessment.
- While the application proposed training and accreditation opportunities for local coaches, long-term delivery arrangements and local ownership of the program were not clearly established.
- The application did not demonstrate formal partnerships with local sporting clubs to support future sustainability or transition pathways into community sport.
- The participant selection and registration process was not clearly articulated despite the program being open to children without a formal diagnosis or referral pathway.

Community Benefit

- The project would provide an inclusive recreation opportunity for children with additional needs and their families.
- The proposal included opportunities for local coach development and disability-inclusive sporting practice.
- The project has the potential to improve confidence, participation and social connection for participating children and families.

Strategic Alignment

☐ Goal 1 - We resect Aboriginal peoples' Cultural Authority and Connection to Ngurra (Country)

☒ Goal 2 - Our community is welcoming, connected, vibrant, healthy and safe
☒ Goal 3 -. Everyone is included
☐ Goal 4 - Our places and spaces are functional, attractive and reflect our unique identity
☐ Goal 5 - We respect and care for the natural environment
☐ Goal 6 - The local economy is diverse and thriving, with opportunities for all
☐ Goal 7 - Our civic leaders are innovative, listening and balanced in meeting community needs.

Project Total	$35,349	**Aggregated Assessment Panel Score (%)**
Amount Requested From City of Karratha	$30,349	50%
Amount Recommended	***$0***	

RECOMMENDATION:
Officers do not recommend funding this application.

The proposal demonstrates alignment with the City's Council Plan Goals 2 and 3 by seeking to improve access to inclusive recreation opportunities for children aged 0-8 years with developmental delays, autism and other additional needs.

Officers recognise the potential value of specialist inclusion programs and acknowledge that smaller participant numbers may be appropriate where activities are designed to meet the needs of children requiring additional support.

However, the application did not sufficiently demonstrate that the necessary local delivery arrangements were established to support implementation. Additionally, venue arrangements remained unconfirmed at time of assessment, representing nearly 30% of the project budget. The application also lacked formal partnerships with local sporting organisations, clearly defined participant selection processes and evidence of how the program would transition to ongoing long-term local delivery and ownership. This creates uncertainty regarding project readiness, financial viability and the sustainability of outcomes beyond the proposed funding period.

While the project has the potential to deliver positive outcomes for participating children and families, Officers consider that further planning and local partnership development are requirement before the proposed City investment can be supported.

Officers therefore recommend that no funding be awarded in this round and encourage the applicant to work with local sporting clubs, and relevant service providers and community organisations to strengthen the delivery model and future funding application.