

**MEDIA RELEASE**

Fitness equipment installed after local school pitches for funds to a virtual audience

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**DATE**

Thursday 8 August 2024

**Portland Bay School Installs New Fitness Equipment Thanks to  
2023 SharkPitch Event**

Portland Bay School is buzzing with excitement following the recent installation of new fitness equipment on the school oval, made possible through funds raised at the United Way Glenelg SharkPitch event in 2023.

This project, aimed at enhancing the physical and mental health of students, particularly those with special needs, marks an exciting time for the school community.

The fitness equipment, which includes a variety of stations designed to improve strength, coordination, and cardiovascular health

Portland Bay School Educational Support Worker, Hannah Palfreyman and student Hayley Pumpa expressed their excitement at being installed.

"The new fitness equipment is a fantastic addition to our school," said Ms Palfreyman.

"This project has not only provided our students with a much-needed fitness resource, but we hope it will also foster a sense of inclusion and support within our school community. It's incredibly rewarding to see the joy and confidence the equipment brings to our students."

The installation of the fitness equipment addresses a critical need for Portland Bay School, offering students safe and appropriate tools to reduce stress, anxiety, and improve their overall wellbeing.

The location of the fitness station also means it open to the wider community to use.

Ms Palfreyman said she was delighted to see community members using the equipment after school hours and on weekends.

"It's wonderful to witness how this initiative benefits not only our students but the entire community," concluded Ms Palfreyman.

Nicole Carr, Executive Officer United Way Glenelg, commended the school's initiative and the community's support. "Portland Bay School's project is a testament to the power of community collaboration."

"For young people with special needs, who may face challenges with social interactions or emotional regulation, the equipment provides a valuable outlet for physical activity and social inclusion," said Ms Carr.

In 2023 Hannah and Hayley raised \$20,799 by pitching their project to a live virtual audience.

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## United Way Glenelg | Media Release



Portland Bay School extends its heartfelt thanks to all the donors and supporters who made this project possible.

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