Timeline of the Author’s Actions on the Grants rorts, comprising firstly The Sports Grants by Sport Australia, Then The Community Development grants, Regional Grants and Community Drought programs administered by The Department of Infrastructure. A combined value of just under $2 Billion

1. Introduction of wanting to know the details of the Sports Australia infrastructure grants program.

I have always been interested in Press stories and their lack of information. Sometime they start in the middle of the story, sometimes they contain an overview of a story and sometimes they choose a theme in a story which totally misses the whole point.

As a result of this poor Journalism, I have for the last 10 or so years studied many Political Scandals and Policies in depth in order to have some idea of the reality of the situation.

Of most notable are the Slipper/Ashby affair where I wrote the Independent Australia original Ashbygate articles. (Interrupted because I broke my neck in late 2014 and then contracted/got Bladder cancer in 2015. Both of which are now fine).

Another series of scandals I used to write about in my blog at

<https://vinceogrady.wordpress.com/author/vinceogrady/>

With some follow up articles on Asbygate.

So I am a person who wants to know the detail so it can inform me of the real reason for circumstances. Such was the case when the Sports Grants hit the headlines. There wasn’t enough detail for me to understand and frankly I was pissed off when I heard journalists saying “Both Sides do it and they always have”!

So I took the following actions.

Actions Sports Grants.

* 1. Downloaded the details of all grants into Excel
  2. Married up the localities with electorates manually. A task which took me 4 days.
  3. Analysed the split up between political parties.
  4. Sent it to R and J. (Two Twitter activists)

The Spit for political Parties was as follows.

**Coalition** Nationals (10 seats) LNP (23 Seats) Liberal (43/44 seats)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Coalition total Grants | 419 |
| Coalition total GrantValue | $61,751,371 |
| Coalition Percentage grants | 61.26% |
| Coalition Percentage grants Value | 61.58% |

**Labor** (68/69 seats)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Labor total Grants | 223 |
| Labor total GrantValue | $31,629,410 |
| Labor Percentage grants | 32.60% |
| LaborPercentage grants Value | 31.54% |

**Independents.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Independent total Grants | 43 |
| Independent total GrantValue | $6,892,089 |
| Independent Percentage grants | 6.29% |
| Independents Percentage grants Value | 6.87% |

1. Background to Commonwealth grants generally
   1. Read the Auditor general’s report into the Sport Australia Grants
   2. Looked at and read the AG’s report on Catherine King’s and Labor’s program
   3. Looked at the Commonwealth procurement rules.
   4. Took note of the Guidelines for the Sports Grants which are different than those a c. Above (because Sport Australia is a commonwealth entity).
2. Found out the following
   1. Until 2008, there were no generalised Commonwealth rules for Grants and delivering them
   2. The rules were proposed by Nick Minchin in 2007/8 and passed into Law by the 2009 Labor government
   3. Sports Australia is a Commonwealth Entity and is not covered by the commonwealth grants rules.
   4. Before 1 Jan 2018, each Department responsible for grant money posted the Grants awarded on their own Commonwealth Govt website.
   5. After 1 Jan 2018 all grants (apart from commonwealth Entities) posted their grants on a Government portal called grant connect.
   6. This portal is searchable and delivers Raw data in Excel format.
3. I received an email from two friends who I had sent the Sports Analysis to, asking for Spreadsheet assistance with the grants they were looking at.
4. In the meantime I had downloaded and was trying to understand the data presented in order to analyse it.

I realised the following:

* 1. The data contained Post code data and also the Location where the grants were to be applied, but they didn’t show which electorate the grant was awarded to.
  2. When I analysed the $100 M Sports grants I matched up the Electorates manually
  3. It took me 4 days using the Locality and the post code and then using the AEC “Find my Electorate” page.

1. I needed to become much faster at analysing a lot of data worth millions in a short time.
2. Actions taken
   1. I knew the Localities in Australia have a postcode attached to them and that the AEC also has that postcode. Individually you can search by postcode, locality or Electorate.
   2. I downloaded a postcode book from Australia post 39 pages. I then cut and pasted those 39 pages of postcodes into an excel Spreadsheet. There were over 17,000 of them
   3. I then rang an IT friend in Canberra and asked for his help. He then downloaded (within two days) a list of all post codes and electorates and sent it to me.
   4. I then married up the two files and added into the master file, the Political Party of each 2019 electorate, the sitting member and the margin they had won the 2019 election by.
3. I was then able by a bit of Excel magic to use formulae to populate the grants connect Spreadsheets and show all the details.
4. Folllowing that breakthrough, I used another piece of Excel magic and I could filter the columns and then choose Department (from a lot,) Grants program (from a lot), type of grant (from closed competitive to Open no competitive and a slew of other classifications (This is an important point in the choice of Program and who to give the grants to).
5. After a conversation with my twitter friends and some explanation by me, I was able to turn around a quite large grant program (Community Development Grants) within two days. They provided the list of electorates, they wanted analysed (which I did).
6. The result was No smoking gun for that set of Electorates. And in the meantime I did an analysis of all the Electorates in the Parliament. (151 seats)
7. Although happy with the result they wanted me to do more analysis and promised to provide a better defined set of Marginal and Electorates of Interest from the last Election. The discussion was of a targeted date range as well (By way of further Confidential information)
8. Whilst waiting for this list, I started to do an Analysis of the Regional Development grants for every Electorate. Doing three spreadsheets basically took me a day to analyse $1.1 Billion of grants
9. In the meantime I had also done the Drought assistance grants for all electorates given grants.
10. Looking at Electorate level still didn’t provide a smoking Gun until I realised that the whole scheme was the Smoking gun. (Choosing a scheme which was closed to only those communities where the Coalition held seats, which also included their supporters Like Kennedy)
11. In the Last Parliament the Liberals had 43 seats, The LNP had 23 and the nationals 10. So there separate Political parties. The Labor party had 69 seats.
12. In the 2019 Election the split was Coalition (Nationals =10, LNP =23, Liberals =44) and labor was 68.
13. It is as plain as day that the strategy to keep the Coalition on the Treasury benches is to keep the Nationals and LNP seats happy and voting them back again and again.
14. I had always asked the Question, “Why would anyone vote for Barnaby Joyce?” In Light of my Analysis, the answer is as plain as day. He, the Nationals and the Coalition deliver.
15. Grants analysed.

Methodology. I downloaded and analysed 3 Spreadsheets from for each grant program.

1/ Spreadsheets on the Dept of Infrastructure website before 1 Jan 2018 (after which all grants data was removed to the Commonwealth governments Grants Portal. These grants would have been after Sept 2013 and so only included Grants awarded during the Coalition’s tenure. Note Community Development grants went from 2014 to 2017) Note Regional Development grants went from 2017 only Several streams.)

2. A spreadsheet from Grants connect portal which contained data for the whole of 2018 from 1 Jan 2018 to 31 Dec 2018 for all grants for All active and non active agencies.

3. A spreadsheet from Grants connect portal which contained data for the whole of 2019 from 1 Jan 2019 to 31 Dec 2019 for all grants for All active and non active agencies.

Please note these two years in Grant connect data represent a value of over $30 Billion of which I have looked at one Agency (The Dept of infrastructure). It is my contention that other Departments will show up bias in the distribution of commonwealth funds as well.

1/ Community Development Grants value $1,125,652,095

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Total Labor Grants | $276,136,095 |  | **24.5312%** |
| Total Coalition Grants | $779,387,534 |  | **69.2387%** |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| Total Nationals | $144,120,360 |  | **12.8033%** |
| Total LNP | $226,062,024 |  | **20.0828%** |
| Liberals | $409,205,150 |  | **36.3527%** |

2/ Regional Grants Value $719,363,851.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Labor Totals | $154,806,633 | **21.5199%** |
| Coalition Totals | $521,272,641 | **72.4630%** |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| The Nationals | $129,428,223 | **17.9920%** |
|  |  | with 6.62% of the seats |
| LNP | $152,901,935 | **21.2552%** |

Just these two Grants have a combined value of $1,845,015,946.

3/ Sports grants value $100,000,000

4/ Community Drought Grants value $251,274,343.

Total value (over 6 years) $2,097,290,289.

Copies of all four Grant programs analysed are attached to this Document/email.

Please note these have been from Sports Australia and The Department of Infrastructure and have gone on for a long time. So it’s my feeling that the Strategy is well thought out and well advanced and controlled.

It might be argued with the Regional grants that the Labor party doesn’t have many Electorates in the regions (What is a region?). On the other hand making money available to the regions is also a government choice.

Think about the number of Electors in each Electorate. Round about 110k to 120k and so one would expect the distribution by the “COMMONWEALTH” to be fairly distributed among the whole population. That is NOT happening.

Bear also in mind that I have looked at Grants administered by One Department and one Government independent entity.

I have also identified Segments of the Population (Please refer back to ‘Filling the vacuum document” which have also been dealt out Largesse which in many cases was unnecessary (in my view) and was made to Placate and stroke various organisations and groups in the communities.

Take for example the Security Grants for Education of Small Racial group (of all denominations) to act in a lawful manner. (A duty which is placed on all Australians, residents and visitors anyway). The payment by the home affairs dept of $1.1 Million to build a blast wall at the Beth Weitzman centre in Caulfield. In one of the safest cities in the World and in one of the safest suburbs in the World.

End