Clare United Sports Clubrooms (Clare United) is a local sporting facility located in Clare, in the Mid North region of South Australia, approximately 130 kilometres from Adelaide. Clare United brings together three local clubs, Clare Hockey Club, Mid North Clare Little Athletics and Clare Touch Association. Their home grounds are located on Elliot Street in Clare at Clare High School.

Since their inception, all three clubs have played on the Clare High School grounds. However, initially the clubs did not have their own storage facilities, canteen or toilet – they had a ground without a home! In 2012, the club received a grant from the Office for Recreation and Sport to convert old transportable classrooms into clubrooms, a canteen and storage area. Over this time, Clare United has worked in partnership with Clare High School and its principal, who has been instrumental in ensuring the success of the club. As part of the partnership, the club is able to use the school grounds during weekday evenings and on the weekends for its practices and games.

In addition to Clare United, a number of clubs across the Adelaide metropolitan area have also entered into partnership agreements with local state government schools. These partnerships can be mutually beneficial for both the club and the school - while the school provides the facilities for the club, the club can provide sport development for students and local children. In fact, some clubs have gone further than this and have engaged in additional projects with their local school such as sports clinics during school holidays and coaching programs for school sport coaches.

These partnerships demonstrate that it is possible for clubs and schools to work together for the benefit of all involved including the local community.
Although Clare United has benefitted greatly from its relationship with Clare High School, this arrangement has been based on a handshake. While this demonstrates the good will and strong sense of trust that exists between the club and the school, if you are thinking about engaging in a partnership arrangement with a school it is important to ensure that you have a signed agreement that outlines the terms of the partnership.

When developing a partnership agreement important things to consider include how long the partnership will exist for, how much the club will pay to utilise the school grounds, when the grounds can be used, as well as the general responsibilities of both parties including who is responsible for maintenance and payment of utilities.

WHAT CAN YOUR CLUB DO?

To assist in helping your club become more sustainable, you can…

CONSIDER PARTNERSHIP ARRANGEMENTS WITH LOCAL SCHOOLS
When engaging in a partnership, ensure you have a written agreement in place outlining the terms of the arrangement.

ENSURE THE RELATIONSHIP IS MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL
Think about how the arrangement could be mutually beneficial for your club and the school.