



Investing in netball to support female participation in sport

Proposal for a Commonwealth local
government partnership

Investing in netball facilities to support female participation

- **Accelerate provision of gender equitable facilities in local sporting infrastructure**
- **Provide a lever to ensure future needs are met**
- **Opportunity to improve participation outcomes**

Netball in Bayside

Netball is the most popular female team sport across Australia.

Netball participation in Bayside has doubled since 2010, with nearly 2,700 registered players from 14 clubs playing on seven courts - six outdoor and one indoor.

Bayside's netball courts are used every weeknight for training and games which run until 8pm on Thursdays and 8am to 6pm on Saturdays. The courts are also used for interschool games during weekdays and representative netball training on Sundays.

Our netballers are being short changed

Almost 200 players sit out each week due to byes for lack of court space. Bayside games are 12 minutes shorter than the national standard in order to fit all games on the fixture. The netball association also caps team numbers and restricts players to Bayside residents only.

A 2014 needs assessment identified future demand would require 12 outdoor courts with night match floodlighting and two indoor courts. In 2018 however, player numbers have already exceeded those projected for 2024.

Council's proposed solution addresses both short and longer term needs of the sport.

Working towards a solution

The Sandringham Golf Driving Range at Wangara Road, Sandringham has been identified as the preferred site for new facilities to meet the growing demand following a review of ten possible sites.

This site is also large enough to provide for future expansion.

Request for funding partnership

Construction of the new netball facility with 12 outdoor and two indoor courts is expected to cost \$20 million.

Bayside City Council has set aside \$11.3 million in its long term financial plan to construct 12 new outdoor netball courts and amenity facilities, and \$400,000 in its 2018/19 budget to complete detailed design and costing.

Funding contributions from other levels of government are required towards the remaining \$9+ million to fund the indoor courts and additional facilities to future proof netball in Bayside.

Commonwealth & State government support for netball

A strong precedent for Commonwealth funding for local netball was established during the 2016 election campaign, with commitments worth more than \$40 million made for netball related facilities.

The Victorian government has previously announced funding for:

- \$64.6 million upgrade of State Netball & Hockey Centre in Parkville for six new indoor netball courts, a new indoor hockey facility, a high-performance strength and conditioning gym and a home for Netball Victoria and Hockey Victoria.
- \$9.6 million to build 64 netball courts in Melbourne, Moreland, Yarra and Darebin to keep up with demand.
- A further \$15 million for the Female Friendly Facilities Fund.

Netball is the most popular female team sport across Australia



Council's solution addresses the short and longer term needs of netball

Delivering to our girls and women

The development of 12 outdoor courts at Sandringham will be prioritised to be delivered by the end of 2020.

Construction of two indoor courts is subject to funding contributions from other levels of government. The indoor court and two outdoor courts at the existing netball centre at Thomas Street in Hampton will be retained until indoor courts are established at the new site.

The new facilities will not only meet the current and future needs of the sport in Bayside but also enable the netball association to expand its programs. This includes developing the fledgling all-abilities program for players with a disability, creating pathway opportunities to higher level competition, establishing participation opportunities for boys and men as well as servicing other sports and local schools.

National problem, local solution

- Lack of physical activity contributes to chronic disease which has been estimated to cost the Australian economy a total of \$13.8 billion each year.
- In 2014–15, nearly 45% of adults under 64 did not meet the recommended physical activity guidelines (ABS Australian Health Survey 2014–15).
- Women were more likely than men to have low exercise levels (61% compared with 69%) with the largest difference existing for adults aged 18–24 years (48 % compared with 59%) (Australian Health Survey 2014–15).
- Lack of appropriate facilities for girls and women is an acknowledged barrier to their participation in sport.
- At the grassroots level supporting the upgrade of critical sport and recreation infrastructure will enable more women to participate in sport.
- The Commonwealth has a commitment to improve participation outcomes for targeted populations including women.

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National policy settings

National Sport and Active Recreation Policy Framework

- Identifies increasing the participation of particular sub-groups under-represented in sport and recreation as a priority area for cooperation between all levels of government.
- Establishes an objective to support participation through well planned, designed and managed facilities and open space.
- Identifies the opportunity for sport and recreation to achieve wider public policy and social inclusion outcomes and sets a goal for increased use of sport to achieve broader government and social development outcomes in target groups.
- Defines roles and responsibilities for the Commonwealth and State and Territory governments including investing in infrastructure and partnering with service providers to improve participation to targeted populations, including women.
- Sets an expectation that local government facilitate a strategic approach to the provision of infrastructure and open space and invest in infrastructure.



Bayside City Council Recreation Strategy 2013–2022

- Identifies responding to recreation and sporting demands and opportunities to increase participation as a priority.
- Sets an objective to increase the capacity, accessibility and functionality of existing facilities.
- Establishes a comprehensive action plan detailing ongoing, short, medium and long term actions.
- Includes a prioritised program of infrastructure works that has been identified for future renewal or upgrade.

Council Plan 2017–2021

- Deliberate financial strategy to increase spending on community infrastructure – record \$52 million investment while remaining free of historic debt.
- Accelerated Pavilion Improvement Plan investing \$33 million to upgrade 27 pavilions by 2024 including female friendly change rooms to encourage greater female participation in sport.
- Six accessible, female friendly sporting pavilions completed by 2018.
- 2018/19 budget includes \$8.4 million for seven further pavilion upgrades.
- 5 sports lighting and 4 sports ground upgrades completed to increase capacity of grounds.
- \$1 million towards increased facilities for basketball.



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