



BUILDING STRONGER, HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES WITH SPORTS

THE GREENS' PLAN TO ENSURE WOMEN'S AND COMMUNITY SPORTS THRIVE

Women's and community sports remain underfunded, yet they are crucial to community health and wellbeing. The Greens will shine a light on this across the state, taking the politics out of funding and providing support where it is most needed.

We know playing sport is good for your health, but is also good for your wellbeing. Sports help build social connections and are a vital part of our community. Yet, lack of proper facilities and financial costs of participating in sports can become a barrier to people getting involved, meaning those who most need the benefits of sports are often missing out.

For years women's facilities have been badly neglected, so women often don't have change rooms or toilets, or enough courts to play on. People on low incomes, Aboriginal people and people from culturally diverse backgrounds have also often missed out due to costs of uniforms and other fees, as well as social barriers.

For too long, funding for community sports has been used as a political football. Too often funding is only committed during elections, and often it goes to marginal seats, rather than where it is most needed.

OUR PLAN

To take the politics out of community sports funding and ensure investment in community and women's sport where it is most needed, the Victorian Greens will:

- **Launch a Parliamentary Inquiry into the availability and needs of community sports clubs and facilities across the state, with a**

particular focus on women's sports facilities, disability accessible facilities and supporting people on low incomes to be a part of sports clubs and teams.

- **Provide \$800,000 over four years to fund Australia's Peak Women's sports agency – Women Sport Australia to continue to advocate for women in sport.**

The Greens understand that when our community sports thrive, our community thrives. We will prioritise creating healthy, liveable communities.

PARTICIPATION IN SPORT

According to VicHealth's Sport Participation in Victoria report, women participate in sports at half the rate of men. Metropolitan growth areas and areas with the most disadvantaged socioeconomic status also have lower participation rates. People who are under-represented in sport include people with disabilities, Aboriginal Victorians, culturally and linguistically diverse communities, and people from low socioeconomic backgrounds.

A significant reason for these lower participation rates are lack of appropriate facilities, social barriers and lack of income to pay for uniforms and club fees.



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PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

The Greens believe that everyone should be able to participate in community sports, no matter what your background and where you live. We understand that sports are a vital part of building stronger, healthier communities.

That's why we are committed to initiating a parliamentary inquiry into community sports across Victoria. This inquiry will investigate where there are shortfalls in community sporting facilities, particularly for women and people with a disability. It will investigate whether there are culturally appropriate facilities and sports clubs available. It will also focus on the financial barriers to participation and where funding is most needed to allow everyone to be included in our local sports clubs.

The Greens believe in needs-based funding and will fund community sports in accordance with this and the findings of the inquiry.

WOMEN IN SPORT

We still have a long way to go before we see equality for women in sports. Women are not only underrepresented in elite sports, they participate in community sports at half the rate of men in Victoria.

Too often, there are not enough facilities for women dominated sports. For example, research has found substantial shortfalls in netball courts, meaning girls and women have to travel further to play and some give up trying. Further, there are a lack of women's change rooms and toilets, forcing them to change in cars and hold on to go to the toilet at home.

Australia's peak, not-for-profit body for Women's Sports – Women Sport Australia is based here in Victoria and provides vital advocacy and support services for women in sport. Yet it is run by volunteers and receives no funding, unlike most other peak bodies.

The Greens will fund Women Sport Australia to continue its important work promoting women's sports and fighting for equality for women, including in status, pay, workplace conditions, mentoring and equal access to facilities.

The Greens will also continue to advocate for improved wages and wage parity for professional women athletes, to ensure women's equality in our elite sports.