

Australian Womensport and Recreation Association

2014-2015 President's Report

In my second and first full year as President, we have made many breakthroughs in developing a more sustainable organisation as well as making huge inroads into the four key areas within our plan:

- Building strategic alliances and partnerships to increase impact and viability
- Promoting the value of women in sport to achieve greater social outcomes;
- Developing and supporting women leaders to improve the business of sport
- Leading the conversation to be the voice for women in sport.

Our key priorities within our “A Charter for Active Australian Women” provide the focus for our advocacy and sports development work:

- Prioritising female participation in all aspects of sport and active recreation.
- Increasing women's participation in leadership roles
- Addressing the barriers girls and women face in sport and physical activity
- Increasing media coverage of the activities and achievements of female athletes

Our engagement with the public and stakeholders has moved to another level as a result of some 4,391 tweets being posted, our media releases gaining more traction and the growing awareness of our knowledge of issues in women in sport by the media.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Webmaster Iain Toohy for sending out media releases and newsletters throughout the year. The Federal Government's Office of Sport grant for our part-time Executive Officer concluded in December 2014 provided a platform for growth, which has accelerated over the last six months exemplified in the overwhelming interest in Board positions. We formally acknowledge the support of former Minister for Sport, Kate Lundy in helping AWRA secure that grant.

Our thanks are also extended to our Patron, the Governor-General, His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd), Life Patron; past Governor General, The Honourable Dame Quentin Bryce AD CVO and our Ambassadors Ric Charlesworth AM, Lauren Jackson AO and Heather Reid AM.

Funding is still a major issue with resources to employ our part-time Executive Officer, Leanne Evans not yet guaranteed beyond the end of December 2015. The next few years will require AWRA to continue to focus on its core business by growing its membership, funding and advocacy base. This will not be easy, as it will require a conscious effort on the part of a very small but committed Executive.

In closing, I would like to thank our Board, Vice President Julie Anderson, Treasurer Monica Tonner who stepped into the role after the resignation of Jessica Manton, Secretary Janice Crosswhite OAM, Greg Downes, Louise Evans, Shona Mc Keen, Danielle Warby, and Paula Ward for their support in advocating for women in sport and recreation over the past year. Thank you also to Louise, one of our Board Directors for generously hosting our annual planning meeting. I wish the incoming President Carol Fox and the new Board all the best.

Deidre Anderson

15 September, 2015