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Media Release

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New sporting club, highlights community bond

Independent member for Shepparton District Suzanna Sheed says the importance of sporting groups in a time of crisis, has been highlighted by the launch of a new initiative.

Ms Sheed flipped the coin at the new Shepparton Bears women's match, against Melton Central on Saturday.

"Football and netball clubs across country areas provide a welcoming opportunity for people from all walks of life to participate in sporting activities, leading to a sense of good health and well-being," she said.

"They provide social connectedness and are great support networks for local people."

Ms Sheed said the formation of the Shepparton team highlights the importance of women's involvement in the sport of AFL football.

"It's truly great to see women take centre stage on Deakin reserve," she said.

"And why not, given they make up more than half of spectators at AFL matches throughout the country.

"The movement into AFL football by women is an excellent initiative and increases the accessibility for females to sporting opportunities, broadening the scope of what is on offer for them to participate in.

"I commend the Shepparton Football Netball Club for being leaders in the initiative, and taking up the opportunity to encourage both the young girls and women's football teams.

"I also congratulate AFL Goulburn Murray and Valley Sports for supporting the initiative and helping to get it off the ground."

"While the very wet weekend was unlucky for the Bears, I wish them all the best for future success, in climbing the Victorian Women's Football League ladder," Ms Sheed said.

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