

Media Release

The Hon Ros Spence MP
Minister for Multicultural Affairs
Minister for Community Sport
Minister for Youth



Monday, 24 May 2021

CHANGE OUR GAME – BACKING WOMEN AND GIRLS IN SPORT

Life Saving Victoria volunteers will receive *Change Our Game* scholarships as the Andrews Labor Government renews its drive to level the playing field in sport and recreation.

The Labor Government on Thursday confirmed an injection of \$11.6 million in the *Victorian Budget 2021/22* to continue the pioneering work of the Office for Women in Sport and Recreation.

Minister for Community Sport Ros Spence lauded the *Change Our Game* activities that drive participation, leadership and visibility of women and girls on the field and in administration and governance.

Change Our Game scholarships further leadership opportunities for women ranging from community sport volunteers to senior leaders at state associations with successful applicants receive grants ranging from \$2,000 to \$10,000.

Life Saving Victoria has achieved gender parity among its 37,000 members and also has majority women membership on its board. The community service and sporting institution will provide training opportunities for seven volunteers attached to local clubs courtesy of its *Change Our Game* support.

The latest round of 24 scholarships confirmed today also includes Rana Hussain – Diversity and Inclusion Manager at Cricket Australia and a member of the Collingwood Football Club Anti-Racism Advisory Committee – and Dr Philippa Inge, the team doctor for the Australian women's cricket team.

Ms Hussain will take part in the ChangeUp Leadership Program while Dr Inge will participate in a leadership development program at the Melbourne Business School.

Some 380 people and organisations have received a *Change Our Game* scholarship since 2017, including Jaimie Collins of the Bicycle Network who in February participated in a workshop to build her management skills.

The Labor Government has also backed female sports participation by building 130 female friendly facilities across the state since 2015 – part of a \$1 billion community sport infrastructure roll-out.

For more information about the Office for Women in Sport and Recreation and *Change Our Game*, visit changeourgame.vic.gov.au.

Quote attributable to Minister for Community Sport Ros Spence

“Victoria was the first state to establish an office focused on women in sport and recreation – we’re proud to be backing the Change Our Game program to continue making a difference for women and girls.”

Quotes attributable to Director of the Office for Women in Sport and Recreation Sarah Styles

“Victoria leads the way in realising a future where women and girls have equal choices and opportunities to lead and participate in sport and active recreation as the men and boys in their lives.”

Quote attributable to Change Our Game scholarship recipient Jaimie Collins

“When we see more women in visible leadership positions, we are creating opportunities for the next generation to access mentors and see a pathway for all.”

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