

Media Release

The Hon Jaala Pulford MLC

Minister for Employment

Minister for Innovation, Medical Research and the Digital Economy

Minister for Small Business

Minister for Resources



Thursday, 2 December 2021

COMMUNITY SPORT EQUIPPED WITH MORE JOBS TO RETURN TO PLAY

The Andrews Labor Government is getting people back in the game with jobs to support sporting organisations boost participation and promote inclusivity.

Minister for Employment Jaala Pulford and Minister for Community Sport Ros Spence this week announced 70 people are now in jobs across 30 state sporting organisations helping community sport gear up again this summer through the Labor Government's Jobs Victoria employment program.

The sport and recreation sector experienced fewer programs and events during the pandemic which led to reduced revenue and participation, as well as job losses.

Akii Ngo, now employed through the Government initiative at Disability Sport and Recreation (DSR), was stood down from their role as a health promotion practitioner and remained in unsteady employment including at several positions unaccommodating to their disability.

Earlier this year, having never worked in the sport sector before, Mx Ngo took a punt and applied for the position of Project Manager at DSR. They are now leading *'The Phoenix Project'* aimed at making sure people with disability are not left behind and forgotten about in the return to community sport.

The recruits will develop new approaches and strategies to incentivise more community sport participation for all Victorians with a focus on those with disabilities, older Victorians, and Aboriginal Victorians.

Victorians looking for a job or a career change can access free advice and support from a 600-strong force of Jobs Victoria Advocates, Mentors and Career Counsellors, ensuring every Victorian can find a job that works for them.

For more information about looking for work or finding staff for your business, visit jobs.vic.gov.au or call the Jobs Victoria Hotline on 1300 208 575.

Quote attributable to Minister for Employment Jaala Pulford

"These jobs will help local sporting and recreational organisations reconnect with their communities while providing employment to those who need it most."

Quote attributable to Minister for Community Sport Ros Spence

"This initiative is making a real difference, helping our community sport and recreation sector to map out how it will resume activity in a safe way and re-engage with the Victorian community."

Quote attributable to Disability Sport and Recreation Project Manager Akii Ngo

"This role is truly an opportunity to grow and develop the entire disability sport and recreation sector, to increase accessibility, inclusion and break down barriers faced by those with disability to improve their choice, access and participation to sport and active recreation."