

Media Release

The Hon Ros Spence MP

Minister for Prevention of Family Violence

Minister for Multicultural Affairs

Minister for Community Sport

Minister for Youth



Monday, 8 August 2022

FAIR ACCESS FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS IN SPORT

In an Australian-first, Victoria will have fair access to community sporting facilities for every participant, thanks to an Andrews Labor Government initiative.

Minister for Community Sport Ros Spence was today joined by representatives from state sporting organisations and local government authorities to reveal a three-phase initiative that will set minimum standards of access across the state.

At present, many Victorian women and girls don't have access to the best courts or grounds, have facilities of lesser standard, or are relegated to less convenient competition and training times. These barriers make it difficult for many to participate or reach their best.

The Fair Access Policy Roadmap aims to develop a state-wide foundation to improve the access to, and use of, community sports infrastructure for women and girls.

From July 2024, all Victorian councils will need to ensure equitable access to sporting facilities for people of all genders to be considered eligible to receive infrastructure funding from the Labor Government.

In partnership with Sport and Recreation Victoria and VicHealth, the roadmap is being delivered through the Office for Women in Sport and Recreation and aligns with Victoria's *Gender Equality Act 2020*.

The roadmap features three key phases: education, readiness and progress. It is designed for local governments, sport and recreation organisations and other groups which manage publicly owned community sports infrastructure.

In the first phase commencing this year, the Office for Women in Sport and Recreation will provide training, education and support to local councils, peak bodies and facilities to help them implement the roadmap.

To view the *Fair Access Policy Roadmap*, visit: changeourgame.vic.gov.au.

Quote attributable to Minister for Community Sport Ros Spence

"The Fair Access Policy Roadmap will deliver greater health outcomes for all Victorians, a stronger community sport and recreation sector, and fairer use of public sporting assets."

Quote attributable to Minister for Women Natalie Hutchins

"This landmark policy will ensure all Victorian women can fully participate in and enjoy the benefits of community sport, with fair opportunity and access to their local facilities."

Quote attributable to Office for Women in Sport and Recreation Director Sarah Styles

"This landmark policy will ensure community sporting environments are welcoming, accessible, and inclusive for everyone. We're looking forward to working with all stakeholders, wherever they are on their journey."

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