

# Media Release

**The Hon Ros Spence MP**  
Minister for Prevention of Family Violence  
Minister for Community Sport  
Minister for Suburban Development



Monday, 6 February 2023

## LEVELLING THE PLAYING FIELD FOR COMMUNITY SPORT CLUBS

Community sport clubs across Victoria are being supported to increase participation for women and girls with grants from the Andrews Labor Government.

Minister for Community Sport Ros Spence today opened applications for the 2022-23 round of the *Change Our Game Community Activation Grants Program*.

The Labor Government program backs clubs to deliver events and initiatives that promote gender equality.

Grants of up to \$10,000 are available to eligible clubs and community groups across Victoria to help them create more opportunities for women and girls at the grassroots level.

Now in its sixth year, the program has already funded activations and events at more than 350 organisations across the state.

One such initiative was with Birchip-Watchem Netball Club, a club that prides itself on being an inclusive and welcoming organisation embracing members of all abilities, nationalities and sexual orientations.

The club used its grant to host an umpire and coaching session to help boost participation in netball and reward its dedicated and hard-working volunteer workforce.

Together with the *Fair Access Policy Roadmap*, launched by the Government in August 2022, the program provides a great opportunity for clubs and organisations to expand equitable access and use of community sports infrastructure.

Go to [changeourgame.vic.gov.au](https://changeourgame.vic.gov.au) for more information on the 2022-23 *Change Our Game Community Activation Grants Program*.

### Quotes attributable to Minister for Community Sport Ros Spence

*"Removing the barriers facing women and girls getting into community sport has huge benefits on and off the field – from the grassroots to the elite level."*

*"These grants help create more opportunities for women and girls at a local club level and help to inspire the next generation of female sporting stars."*

### Quotes attributable to Birchip-Watchem Netball Club President Kylie Walsh

*"Living rurally, opportunities to upskill and be inspired by specialist coaches and umpires is unique."*

*"Bringing outside specialist coaches into the club has helped to inspire and give confidence to our players both on and off the court, improving the club's participation and engagement."*

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