



The Hon Ros Spence MP

Minister for Agriculture
Minister for Treaty and First Peoples
Minister for Community Sport
Minister for Carers and Volunteers

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Robert McDonald
Clerk of the Legislative Council
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Dear Mr McDonald

Thank you for your letter advising me of the petition tabled in the Legislative Council on 17 March 2026 regarding support for women and girls in sport.

The Allan Labor Government is committed to supporting women and girls in sport and recreation. Over the past decade, the government has played a lead role advocating for and developing policy settings to drive systemic change to improve representation, safety, and inclusivity for women and girls in sport and recreation including through the Balance the Board Policy and Fair Access Policy Roadmap, the first statewide policies of their kind in Australia.

Since 2014, the Allan Labor Government has invested more than \$1 billion in around 1,840 community sport and active recreation infrastructure projects that benefit women and girls. This significant investment has been delivered through programs including, but not limited to, the Local Sports Infrastructure Fund, Country Football and Netball Program, and Regional Community Sports Infrastructure Fund.

Every community sports infrastructure project that the Labor Government invests in must incorporate Universal Design principles and be designed to support women and girls' participation in community sport and active recreation. In addition, from July 2024, local councils were required to have an adopted gender equitable access and use policy and action plan to remain eligible for Victorian Government funding for community sports infrastructure, as part of the Fair Access Policy Roadmap.

The Community Sports Infrastructure 2024 Outcomes Statement – a Sport and Recreation Victoria report – highlights the positive impacts of more than 330 government-funded projects over the last two years, which include several positive impacts for women and girls:

- Junior girls' sport participation increased the most among all groups, rising by 19%
- Almost 75% of funded facilities increased women and girls' participation in sport and active recreation

- 95% of funded facilities reported implementing at least one gender equity initiative, the most common being 'equality through scheduling'.

Since 2019, more than \$24 million has also been provided through community sport participation programs to directly support women and girls' participation. For example, the Together More Active program provides grants to support organisations to increase participation in sport and active recreation, build a skilled workforce and develop a safe, inclusive and resilient sector. This includes funding for Vicsport's LEAP (Lead, Engage, Achieve, Promote) program which supports the professional development of women leaders in the sector.

Sport and Recreation Victoria, with its broad range of sector development, participation, and infrastructure functions, is continuing to lead Victoria's support for women and girls in sport and recreation including both the Fair Access Roadmap and Balance the Board.

Inquiries relating to prevention of violence programs are best directed to the Minister for Prevention of Family Violence.

Further information regarding these programs and other Victorian Government initiatives is available on the Sport and Recreation Victoria [website](#).

Yours sincerely



The Hon. Ros Spence MP
Minister for Community Sport

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