



## Local Government Women in Sport Equity Program Proposal

In October 2013 the Board of Local Government NSW considered motions proposed by Councils prior to its Conference.

*I am pleased to advise that in relation the resolutions from Blacktown and Shellharbour Councils regarding women in sport, LGNSW will shortly be calling on all councils to promote women in sport by improved access, participation and equity for women and girls.*

Womensport NSW is working with the Minister for Sport and Recreation on its Partnerships for Long Term Strategic Planning Program that works with councils to **promote women in sport by improved access, participation and equity for women and girls, to assist in the delivery of the NSW State Plan and the social justice principles of access, equity and participation.**

ALGWA NSW and Womensport NSW have been working in partnership for a number of years **to promote ACCESS, PARTICIPATION and EQUITY for Women and Girls through Sport and Recreation.**

Womensport NSW and ALGWA NSW have been working in partnership since the Blacktown Conference in 2010. We are now in the second year of the Partnerships for Long Term Strategic Planning Program and now propose to capitalise on our momentum with a **Local Government Women in Sport Equity Program.**

Womensport NSW will be presenting the Program at the 6<sup>th</sup> Quadrennial International Working Group for Women In Sport Conference in Helsinki in June 2014. The 5<sup>th</sup> Quadrennial Conference was held in Sydney in 2010 and we will be delivering the Sydney Legacy to Helsinki – the Sydney Scoreboard <http://www.sydney scoreboard.com/>

### Our Proposal

To implement the **Local Government Women in Sport Equity Program** in partnership with Local Government NSW and ALGWA NSW, which will be similar to the **50:50 Vision Councils for Gender Equity Program** as it will involve Councils undertaking self-assessment based on the Program's guidelines. The Program will then promote Councils by certifying they meet the guidelines; provide a certificate of achievement; promote certified councils on the Womensport NSW website, and provide an accreditation logo for council's websites.

Amanda Spalding | Vice President | Womensport and Recreation NSW

☎ (02) 6362 8729 | Mobile 0427 677 129 | [vicepresident@womensportnsw.com.au](mailto:vicepresident@womensportnsw.com.au) | Web: [www.womensportnsw.com.au](http://www.womensportnsw.com.au) | [office@womensportnsw.com.au](mailto:office@womensportnsw.com.au) (02) 8116 9734 PO Box 147, Sydney Markets, NSW 2129 | Sports House, 6A Figtree Drive, Sydney Olympic Park, NSW 2127



The primary goal of the Program is to increase participation, equity and access for women and girls in sport and recreation.

Local Government NSW has undertaken to call on all councils to promote women in sport by improved access, participation and equity for women and girls, and promote this program so Councils can apply for accreditation as a **Council Working Towards Sporting Equity for Women and Girls**.

It is proposed that a Panel be formed with representation from the partner organisations that will consider applications from councils for accreditation, and review accredited councils annually to renew the accreditation. Fees will apply.

The entire program is strongly based on the concepts of resource sharing and networking, and many resources and tools will be available to councils who wish to improve their performance.

## **Proposed Local Government Women In Sport Equity Program**

Councils are responsible for promoting and contributing to the health and well-being of their communities through the provision of services and facilities at the local level. Councils own the majority of sport and recreation facilities and influence or determine who uses them. Councils control how they are managed. Councils also make land use planning decisions about passive and active open space. **Councils can make a real difference.**

The following program and guidelines are based on '**Ten Ways local government can advance gender equity – Sports and Recreation**' developed by the Gender Equity in Local Government Partnership. [Fact Sheets Link](#)

## **Why is gender relevant to sport and recreation?**

There are many benefits to participation in sport and recreation activities. Aside from the physical and mental health and wellbeing benefits, evidence shows that participation in sport fosters increased self-esteem, a strong sense of belonging and facilitates social inclusion and community integration.

**Women's health** – heart disease, not breast cancer is the biggest cause of premature death for women and kills more women than men in Australia. Regular physical activity is the key prevention factor.

Amanda Spalding | Vice President | Womensport and Recreation NSW

☎ (02) 6362 8729 | Mobile 0427 677 129 | [vicepresident@womensportnsw.com.au](mailto:vicepresident@womensportnsw.com.au) | Web: [www.womensportnsw.com.au](http://www.womensportnsw.com.au) | [office@womensportnsw.com.au](mailto:office@womensportnsw.com.au) (02) 8116 9734 PO Box 147, Sydney Markets, NSW 2129 | Sports House, 6A Figtree Drive, Sydney Olympic Park, NSW 2127



**Participation** in sport has a major influence on developing confidence. We assist women to develop the skills to address gender imbalance in decision making which continues to be a major issue with significant productivity and profit implications for the Australian economy.

Women influence what their families do and how they spend their money. Child obesity and lack of physical activity is now one of our major problems as a nation.

There are still low rates of participation of women and girls in all aspects of sport. Women remain underrepresented at all levels of coaching, officiating and leadership.

Our initial research in NSW demonstrates a very heavy dominance of access and participation opportunities for boys and men in Council owned sports grounds, 86% of bookings being for men's and boy's sport, and only 14% for women's and girls' sport.

Increasing the involvement of women and girls in sporting clubs and recreation activities also challenges gender norms and provides opportunities for women's and girls' **leadership** and achievement.

Reinforcing rules of good conduct through gender equity in junior sport may well flow on to other aspects of life. Sports clubs can enforce equal numbers of women coaches and coaching assistants in their programs. Junior sporting leagues could also look at encouraging equal numbers of boys and girls in teams.

Gender has an impact on all aspects of participation in sports and recreation activities, so it is important for local governments to consider the needs of women and girls from a **planning, design, and community use** perspective. Design considerations and access to sports and recreation facilities also plays a role in providing access for women and girls, as many facilities still lack the infrastructure that provides suitable access to women and girls as players, supporters, coaches, umpires and committee members. For example, change rooms that are available for a visiting female team or female umpires.

## **How can local government promote gender equity in sport and recreation?**

To increase women and girls participation in sports and recreation activities, community spaces need to be safe and welcoming to all members of the community.

Local government has a role to play in ensuring that sporting clubs and recreation facilities engage with a range of strategies aimed at creating inclusive sporting environments.

Amanda Spalding | Vice President | Womensport and Recreation NSW

☎ (02) 6362 8729 | Mobile 0427 677 129 | [vicepresident@womensportnsw.com.au](mailto:vicepresident@womensportnsw.com.au) | Web: [www.womensportnsw.com.au](http://www.womensportnsw.com.au) | [office@womensportnsw.com.au](mailto:office@womensportnsw.com.au) (02) 8116 9734 PO Box 147, Sydney Markets, NSW 2129 | Sports House, 6A Figtree Drive, Sydney Olympic Park, NSW 2127



- Councils can promote and support the participation of women and girls as part of all sport and recreation programs and policies, including allocation of sports grounds.
- Review the current projects and policies that promote and encourage equal participation of women and girls, for example:
  - Womensport NSW Girls Get Active Events [WRNSW Girls Get Active Link](#)
  - Rockdale City Council's Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework 2013 – 2025 and Rockdale Health Partnership [Rockdale's IPR Framework](#)
  - Moreland City Council's Active Women and Girls Strategy
  - Yarra City Council's Equitable Access to Sports Facilities Audit Tool [Yarracity Access and Inclusion Plan](#)
  - Fair Game Respect Matters (VicHealth Program)
  - Everybody Wins (VicHealth initiative).
- Provide relevant infrastructure to improve venues and encourage female involvement.
- Develop partnerships with local sporting clubs to promote equity, access and participation through gender equity training to outline how clubs can build capacity around women in governance, coaching and general participation roles.
- Take an active role in improving the health and well being of the community through the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework.
- Become a Council member of Womensport NSW for \$250 p.a.

## Motions to ALGWA NSW A.G.M. 2014

1. That ALGWA NSW joins Local Government NSW in calling on all councils to promote women in sport by improved access, participation and equity for women and girls.
2. That ALGWA NSW members seek endorsement of this motion at their own Councils:

That X Council undertakes to promote women in sport by improved access, participation and equity for women and girls; participates in the Local Government Women in Sport Equity Program, and becomes a member of Womensport NSW.

Amanda Spalding | Vice President | Womensport and Recreation NSW

☎ (02) 6362 8729 | Mobile 0427 677 129 | [vicepresident@womensportnsw.com.au](mailto:vicepresident@womensportnsw.com.au) | Web: [www.womensportnsw.com.au](http://www.womensportnsw.com.au) | [office@womensportnsw.com.au](mailto:office@womensportnsw.com.au) (02) 8116 9734 PO Box 147, Sydney Markets, NSW 2129 | Sports House, 6A Figtree Drive, Sydney Olympic Park, NSW 2127