

Commitment to the Development of Women's Football in Western Australia



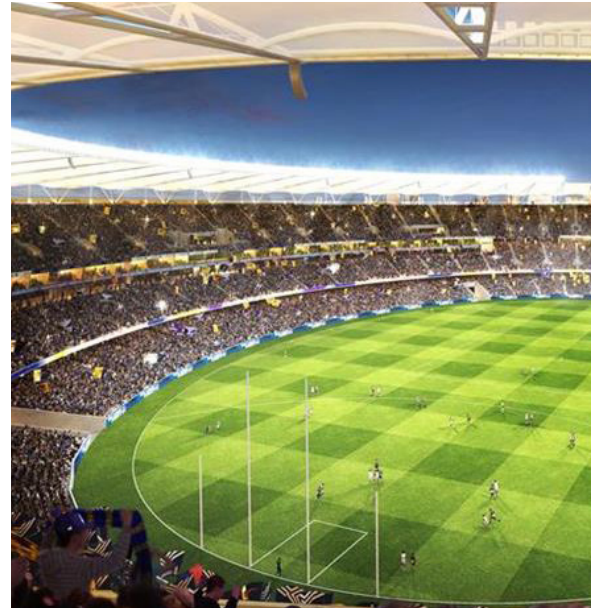
The introduction of a Women's Football at the AFL level has triggered a renewed enthusiasm for women's football in Western Australia.

While Western Australia's two AFL football teams are well-resourced with members and sponsorship deals, more young girls and women need to be supported at a grass roots level to make a serious commitment to football and to be given better opportunities to develop their skills in the game.

The WA Women's Football League administers a women's football competition with nine league clubs in Perth across two divisions - reserves and league.

Many young girls play Auskick footy with the boys from pre-primary to year three, and some then continue to play with the boys until they are 12 but for those who prefer, the WAWFL also runs a girls-only Auskick program and a Junior Girls footy program for girls aged 9-12 years as well as school girl competitions.

In 2013 the WAWFL introduced a Youth Girls competition for girls aged under 15 to give them a development pathway into the senior teams.



Our Commitment

A Liberal Government will support the development of women's football through a \$300,000 (\$75,000 pa) funding allocation for new or existing programs that identify and develop talented young female players, coaches and football club leaders.

To be administered directly by the Department of Sport and Recreation, the funds will be available to clubs in the Western Australian Women's Football League for elite talent identification, coaching clinics, camps and training programs for girls and young women in footy.

It will also fund programs to develop high performance female coaches and trainers and to get many more women involved in leadership roles at club level.

It is important that the funds are directed at measures that identify, retain and develop young sportswomen, especially those aged between 12 and 16.

It is well established in men's football that talent development programs for athletes aged between 12 and 16 are essential in identifying, nurturing and fostering football skills as well as encouraging personal development and sportsmanship.

Not only will this ensure that more young women get these skills development advantages from a young age it will ensure there is a trained and talented pool of young female football players to draw from and a strong local women's competition offering a development pathway for young sportswomen.

The State Government currently contributes \$50,000 a year to support women's teams in the national leagues of basketball (the Perth Lynx) soccer (Women's Perth Glory) and netball (West Coast Fever) to focus on the talent development pathways between community, sub elite and high performance athletes.



www.waliberal.org.au

Authorised by A.Cox, 2/12 Parliament Place, West Perth WA 6005.

