

Media Release



The Hon John Eren MP
Minister for Tourism & Major Events
Minister for Sport
Minister for Veterans

Sunday, 19 July, 2015

LABOR GOVERNMENT LAUNCHES \$100 MILLION INVESTMENT IN GRASSROOTS SPORT

The Andrews Labor Government is getting on with the biggest ever investment in women's participation in sport by an Australian State Government.

Today, The Minister for Sport, John Eren, joined some of Victoria's top female sports stars to announce applications for the Labor Government's Female Friendly Facilities grants are open.

Even though women are joining community sports clubs in record numbers, women's change rooms are too often rundown or non-existent. Sports traditionally played by men are more popular than ever – AFL Victoria welcomed 63 women's teams in 2015 – but they don't enjoy the same facilities as their male counterparts. It's antiquated and it's unfair.

The Labor Government's \$10 million Female Friendly Facilities fund allows clubs to apply for up to \$100,000 to build or upgrade change rooms, so players don't have to change in their cars, in canteens or temporary storage sheds.

The Female Friendly Facilities Fund is part of the Labor Government's \$100 million Community Sports Infrastructure Fund, which is upgrading sport and recreation facilities across the state for all Victorians.

Other Community Sports Infrastructure Fund initiatives include upgrading cricket grounds and grassroots training facilities to keep up with spiralling participation rates, aquatic centres, minor facilities works and planning grants.

Local sports clubs deserve modern, safe facilities. The Labor Government promised them, and is getting on with delivering them. The Community Sport Infrastructure Fund includes \$23 million towards community sporting facility projects across Victoria – and many are already under way.

The Labor Government is also rolling out 1000 life-saving defibrillators to local sports clubs across Victoria.

Applications are now open. For more information or to apply online, visit www.sport.vic.gov.au

Quotes attributable to Minister for Sport John Eren

"Community sport is the heart and soul of our suburbs and towns. Labor promised to upgrade facilities for all Victorians, and we're getting on with building them."

"We are committed to giving all Victorians access to the sporting facilities they deserve. Not just some Victorians, not just the most gifted Victorians – all Victorians."

"Women are joining grassroots clubs at record numbers, but too often their facilities are either rundown or non-existent. Every player deserves equal facilities."