

TREASURER TOM KOUTSANTONIS

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\$10 million to upgrade and build female change rooms

The State Government is investing \$10 million to upgrade and build female change rooms at sporting clubs across South Australia.

The grant program is open to all clubs and recreation groups across the state. It will be fully funded by the State Government – with no contribution required from clubs or councils.

Latest data from the Office of Recreation and Sport shows about 150,000 girls and women are registered with sporting clubs in South Australia.

Investment through this program will see a significant increase in participation in traditionally male-dominated sports – as well as an improvement in safety and culture.

Background

There are more than 4500 registered female football and soccer players and more than 1000 registered cricket players in SA.

Currently, many sporting clubs and many women's sports teams in South Australia, including those with younger players and officials, are forced to use male change rooms, car parks, offices or other areas at sports grounds.

Quotes attributable to Treasurer Tom Koutsantonis

Women and girls who play sport deserve equal facilities and I completely understand concerns parents have about the lack of female change rooms at sports clubs and organisations.

Girls and women who play sport in South Australia should have access to exactly the same level of facilities as boys and men.

The State Government wants to do everything we can to encourage our young people to be fit, active and social, and ensuring change rooms are suitable and available for both men and women will help us achieve this.

This measure will also create local construction jobs as sporting clubs across the State access the grant program.



Quotes attributable to Recreation and Sport Minister Leon Bignell

For too long, women's change rooms have been an afterthought when developing sports facilities.

The State Government will be working with local clubs, sports organisations and councils to make them a priority.

I have spoken to many young female players who tell me first-hand how hard it is to change into their uniforms at their current clubs with many having to change in their car before a game.

The State Government supports women's sports at all levels – from grassroots through to elite and this is just another way we can encourage girls and women to stay in the sports they love.

Quotes attributable to Assistant Minister and SA Women in Sport Chair Katrine Hildyard

Through our South Australian Women in Sport Taskforce, our Government is leading the way on ensuring that women are equal participants in all aspects of sport in South Australia. Women's participation in all sport is growing and we have a moment before us to positively address gender inequality in sport.

This funding is an important step in doing so. It will encourage women and girls to be full and active participants in their sporting clubs. It will also open up opportunities for greater participation in a range of sports which in the past have not always catered for the participation of women and girls.

Having women's change rooms at our sporting clubs sends an important message to women and girls that they are welcome in a sport and that their club's culture is one that will facilitate their participation.

Quotes attributable to South Australian Women's AFL Captain Courtney Cramey

This is a very exciting announcement for young girls and women participating in grassroots sporting clubs throughout the state.

Having an opportunity to access facilities that are gender inclusive is going to go a long way to growing participation at all levels.

Girls and women playing sport in our state are no longer going to have to access inadequate facilities and this is going to go a long way to making them feel comfortable.

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