

## TREASURER TOM KOUTSANTONIS

Thursday, 22 June 2017

### \$19.5 million boost for elite athletes and women in sport

The 2017-18 State Budget includes a major funding package of \$19.5 million to increase women's participation in sport and support South Australia's Olympic athletes.

The investment will underpin the construction of additional women's change rooms across the state, as well as upgrade Netball SA's Priceline Stadium.

The \$19.5 million funding commitment includes:

- **Female Facilities Fund** - an additional \$14 million over two years for the fund to continue the Government's support for sport and recreation organisations implementing projects to address the barriers to female participation.
- **Netball SA Priceline Stadium first-stage upgrade** - \$4.5 million in 2017-18 to Netball SA for key infrastructure improvements at the home of netball in South Australia.
- **South Australian Olympic Council Grant** - \$1 million to the South Australian Olympic Council to support South Australian athletes during the 2017-20 Olympic, Paralympics and Commonwealth Games cycle.

### Background

Breaking down the barriers to women's participation in sport is a high priority for the State Government, with this initiative following a \$10 million budget investment last year to build women's change rooms across South Australia.

Round one of the Female Facilities Fund (2016-17) saw more than 100 applications received, requesting a total of more than \$24 million in funding.

#### *Women in Sport*

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

There are more than 4500 registered female football and soccer players and more than 1000 registered female cricket players in South Australia. Participation in the SANFL junior girls' competitions has grown from 16 teams in 2016 to 66 in 2017.

#### *Netball – Priceline Stadium, Mile End*

Netball is the largest participation sport for women in South Australia and the nation. Priceline Stadium is the home of netball in South Australia and was officially opened in 1997. More than 350,000 participants and patrons attend the stadium every year.

#### *South Australian Olympic Council Grant*

In total, 50 South Australian and Adelaide-based athletes were selected for the 2016 Rio Olympic Games, across 14 sports. There were 27 male and 23 female athletes.

At the 2016 Rio Paralympic Games, nine SASI athletes were selected, across six sports.

### **Quotes attributable to Treasurer Tom Koutsantonis**

We had an overwhelming response from sporting clubs to last year's \$10 million State Budget commitment to build woman's change rooms across South Australia.

Women should have the same access to sport as men, which is why it was such an easy decision to provide this additional funding in this year's State Budget.

### **Quotes attributable to Minister for Recreation and Sport Leon Bignell**

It's so important for us to address the gender divide in sport - and our commitment in this year's State Budget will help us continue to break down the barriers to girls and women participating in sporting activities.

The State Government supports women's participation in sport at all levels - from grassroots to elite - and this funding will enable South Australia to build on the 150,000 girls and women who are already engaged in sporting activities.

I'm delighted we're right behind our Olympic athletes - to give them the best possible chance to succeed at the elite level.

### **Quotes attributable to Netball SA CEO Ben Scales**

As the leading women's participation sport in Australia, netball plays an integral role in facilitating the community's involvement in sport.

Sport plays a vital role in our society, contributing to physical and mental wellbeing, uniting communities and providing opportunities for inclusion.

Priceline Stadium, which is home to Netball SA's 34,000 members and 360 clubs and hosts over 350,000 visitors per year, plays an important role in making sport accessible to South Australians.

This State Government investment in an iconic South Australian sporting facility will ensure that Priceline Stadium continues to provide participation and development opportunities from grassroots netball training and competitions through to the elite Adelaide Thunderbirds.

### **Quotes attributable to Assistant Minister to the Premier and SA Women in Sport Taskforce Chair Katrine Hildyard**

We can all be proud of South Australia's leadership around equality in sport. Funds to continue to drive programs that address gender inequality - in leadership, in pay, conditions, coverage and spectatorship - will accelerate our progress and position South Australia as a hub for women's sport.

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