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FOOTBALL FEDERATION AUSTRALIA

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## NATIONAL PARTICIPATION REPORT

## INTRODUCTION


#### Abstract

I'm delighted to report that football participation in Australia has experienced another year of growth in 2019, with the key segments of women \& girls, social football and CaLD football seeing particular success. Affiliated outdoor football continues to grow year-on-year, as does the number of registered coaches and volunteers on the ground supporting the development of our grassroots players.


## 2019 FOOTBALL PARTICIPATION HIGHLIGHTS:

- 6\% overall growth on 2018 Total Participation to 1,957,552
- $11 \%$ growth in Women \& Girls to 156,893
- 5\% growth in MiniRoos Club \& Kick Off to 239,002
- 35\% growth in Social Football to 125,866
- 36\% growth in Futsal to 63,031
- 7\% increase in Registered Coaches to 38,715
- $20 \%$ increase in Volunteers to 23,322


## WOMEN \& GIRLS FOOTBALL

Our women and girls' participation base continues to develop and provide one of the greatest growth opportunities for football nationally with 156,893 registered participants getting involved in 2019 , representing $11 \%$ growth from 2018.

Football Federation Australia partnered with the Federal Government through Sport Australia's 'Move it Aus' grant programs to deliver several initiatives in this area.

Northern NSW Football saw an increase in women \& girls' participation positively influenced by the roll out of Kickon for Women, an introductory program targeted at non-active, less active $\&$ time-poor women.

Football Victoria in partnership with City in the Community, also established a successful, flexible approach to increasing female participants through its innovative VicHealth Soccer Mums program. This coupled with growth through other social and futsal programs resulted in an increase in both social and outdoor affiliated women's football.

Football NSW also successfully kicked-off their Girls United program targeted at females of all ages from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CaLD) backgrounds.

2019 saw another successful rebel Female Football Week take place with 19,383 female players, coaches, referees and administrators engaged in tailored activities nationwide.

Our Westfield Matildas continue to be a beacon of inspiration to us all and were voted Australia's most-loved sporting team according to the BenchMark Emotional Connection study, conducted by True North Research, following their 2019 FIFA Women's World Cup campaign which saw a $58 \%$ increase in average TV audience.

These initiatives plus the growing interest in female football through the Westfield W-League and early girls' specific opportunities through the MiniRoos program, have played a key role in driving new female participants to our game.

This demonstrates our ongoing commitment to growing the women's game in Australia and is a clear indication to FIFA that Australia is ready to bring the Women's World Cup to our shores in 2023.

## SOCIAL FOOTBALL

Social football has seen a large increase in 2019 with 125,866 regular participants taking part in Walking Football, Summer Football and other social or introductory programs, with $26 \%$ of players being female.

Football Victoria has seen a large increase in social participants through the GO Football program, providing new, returning and existing players with flexible options to suit their footballing needs. Elsewhere both Football NSW and Northern NSW Football have also seen excellent growth in social participants through successful summer football competitions.

2019 saw the introduction of Walking Football throughout the Member Federations with successful projects rolled out nationally. A further focus on this in 2020 will utilise this fantastic opportunity to engage older Australians in the number one club-based participation sport in Australia.

## CULTURALLY AND LINGUISTICALLY DIVERSE FOOTBALL

We continue to invest in opportunities to ensure football remains a diverse and inclusive game for all Australians through programs and tournaments specifically for CaLD communities, Aboriginal \& Torres Strait Islanders and allability participants.
Across Football Queensland, Football NSW \& Football Victoria the MiniRoos Multicultural Settlement Program has worked to enhance the lives of newly arrived children under the age of 12 through social inclusion and connection by creating strong, inclusive, and culturally-diverse football programs and environments which benefits newly arrived families and strengthen the general football community.

We saw an increase of over 11,000 multicultural and indigenous participants engaged in 2019 through programs, tournaments \& festivals delivered nationally.

## OUTDOOR FOOTBALL

Our outdoor affiliated network continues to grow as we attract, engage and retain more participants to our community clubs. FFA MiniRoos continues to be our marquee program and the leading junior introductory program within Australia, with 239,002 boys and girls playing in MiniRoos Club Football or MiniRoos Kick-Off Hubs.

## VOLUNTEERS, COACHES \& REFEREES

The efforts and investment from our volunteers, coaches and referees ensure we provide participants with a positive experience, highlighted by a good participant retention rate. Football Tasmania in particular has seen fantastic growth in both coaches and referees in 2019.

With the introduction of the National Club Development Program comes support for clubs to identify opportunities for future growth and sustainability whilst also recognising the hard work and dedication of volunteer \& coaches.

## CLOSING REMARKS

FFA has increasingly leveraged one of our game's greatest assets, the Hyundai A-League and Westfield W-League Clubs, to engage and connect with new markets. This is reflected with $3 \%$ growth in school participation, community events and promotional experiences delivered by the clubs, as we focus on converting our football participation base into fans.

Our 2019 participation figures are a credit to the efforts of our Member Federations, Hyundai A-League and Westfield W-League Clubs, Associations, Zones and Community Clubs.

We thank you for your efforts as we continue to strive to improve the football experience for every single participant who takes part in Australia's largest and most popular club-based sport.

As the FFA enters this new era of an 'unbundled' League, our challenge will be to ensure that we can continue to work closely with the Leagues, as well as our other stakeholders, to maintain the positive growth which the game has experienced in recent times.

The upward trend of our participation numbers provides an exciting platform from which the FFA can build, but we must not rest on our laurels. While the significant growth of Social football shows that we are committed to finding new ways to engage with our community, we have much work to deliver programs and services to regional parts of Australia.

As the digital landscape and habits of society change, so too do those of fans and participants. We must build a deeper understanding of this landscape and the habits of our community to better understand how Australians are connecting with our game.

In this new era, continuing innovations mean that we must continue to evolve our offerings and services to our stakeholders, participants and fans, so that more Australians can play more football, more often.


## TOTAL PARTICIPATION

## 201620172018

$\square$


## 1,301,244 1,631,041 1,851,683 1,957,552

OUTDOOR AFFILIATED PARTICIPANTS
2016
2017
2018
2019


506,025
520,453
527,650
1\%

543,159
$3 \%$
growth on
2018

$$
\begin{array}{c|c}
\text { growth on } \\
2017 & \text { growth on } \\
2018
\end{array}
$$



SOCIAL
$2019 \quad 125,866$
$2018 \quad 93,401$
$16 \%$ growth on 2017
$2017 \quad 139,143$
9\% growth on 2016
2017 80,196
16\% growth on 2016
$2016 \quad 127,985$

FOOTBALL FEDERATION AUSTRALIA

# 2019 WOMEN AND GIRLS GROWTH SNAPSHOTS 

WOMEN \& GIRLS PARTICIPATION 156,893

| NSW | VIC | QLD | WA | NNSW | SA | ACT | TAS | NT |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 71,907 | 23,549 | 18,041 | 7,535 | 15,802 | 6,859 | 7,727 | 4,527 | 946 |

## OUTDOOR AFFILIATED

OUTDOOR AFFILATED FOOTBALL PARTICIPANTS 119,037

MINIROOS 49,950
YOUTH 40,470

SENIOR 28,617
Key focus on Retention Strategies to improve the current community football experience.

## FEMALE LEADERS

FEMALE RECISTERED COACHES 7,733
FEMALERAFEREES 1,251
FEMALE VOLUNTEERS 10,829
Increased investment through Female Football Development staff providing dedicated support to the growth of the female game.

## RAISING THE PROFILE

## REBEL FEMALE FOOTBALL WEEK

19,383 females including players, coaches, referees and administrators engaged in tailored activities in 2019.

WESTFIELD W-LEACUE ATTENDANCE
96,358 fans attended W-League matches in 2018/19.

FIFA WOMEN'S WORLD CUP FRANCE 2019TM 266,000 average TV Audience for Matildas 2019 World Cup Campaign (58\% up on 2015 WWC).


RECISTERED FUTSAL PARTICIPANTS
4,887
A flexible and tailored approach to programs, resulting in an increase of over 9000 females across Social \& Futsal.

33\% growth on 2018


# FOOTBALL FEDERATION AUSTRALIA <br> 2019 NATIONAL SUMMARY <br> TOTAL PARTICIPATION <br> 1,957,552 <br> 6\% growth on 2018 

WOMEN \& GIRLS PARTICIPATION 156,893
INCLUDES OUTDOOR, REGISTERED FUTSAL \& SOCIAL

TOTAL PARTICIPATION 745,792
INCLUDES SCHOOLS, COMMUNITY EVENTS \& PROMOTIONAL EXPERIENCES

## OUTDOOR AFFILIATED FOOTBALL

## 543,159 PARTICIPANTS



OTHER FORMATS


## 2,386

 CLUBS

20 20 20 20 20

## 2019 NSW SUMMARY



## TOTAL PARTICIPATION

 $\because 7744$

N0(8) HYUחDAI A-LEAGUE

dWestrield W-LEAGUE TOTAL PARTICIPATION 325,434

INCLUDES SCHOOLS, COMMUNITY EVENTS \& PROMOTIONAL EXPERIENCES

OUTDOOR AFFILIATED FOOTBALL

## 232,496 PARTICIPANTS



752 CLUBS

## OTHER FORMATS

FUTSAL

| 7,207 |
| :--- |
| PARTICIPANTS |
| 7\% |
| growth on 2018 |


*Total numbers include male, female and gender unspecified

## 2019 VIC SUMMARY



## 2019 QLD SUMMARY



OUTDOOR AFFILIATED FOOTBALL

## 72,996 PARTICIPANTS



REGISTERED COACHES 85\% MALE
15\% FEMALE
© 4,150
voluntiers
49\% MALE
51\% FEMALE

## OTHER FORMATS



[^0]
## 2019 WA SUMMARY



TOTAL PARTICIPATION
161,339

6\% GROWTH ON 2018

WOMEN \& GIRLS PARTICIPATION 7,535
INCLUDES OUTDOOR, REGISTERED FUTSAL \& SOCIAL
( $\mathbb{A}$ HYUחDAI A-LEAGUE

0Hestrield W-LEAGUE TOTAL PARTICIPATION 59,905
INCLUDES SCHOOLS, COMMUNITY EVENTS \& PROMOTIONAL EXPERIENCES

## OUTDOOR AFFILIATED FOOTBALL

39,522 PARTICIPANTS


MiNjRCOS
16,291 PARTICIPANTS

 REGISTERED COACHES 88\% MALE
$12 \%$ FEMALE

0708
REGISTERED REFEREES
91\% MALE
9\% FEMALE

0896
VOLUNTEERS
52\% MALE
48\% FEMALE
-

## OTHER FORMATS

6,964 FEMALE (18\% OF TOTAL)


## 2019 NNSW SUMMARY



## 2019 SA SUMMARY



## 2019 ACT SUMWARY

登 FOOTBALL

## TOTAL PARTICIPATION

3950

1\% GROWTH ON 2018

WOMEN \& GIRLS PARTICIPATION 7,727
INCLUDES OUTDOOR, REGISTERED FUTSAL \& SOCIAL

> YOUTH 5,693
> PARTICIPANTS


4,301 participants


VOLUNTEERS
41\% MALE
59\% FEMALE

##  <br> 407

 E

44

## CLUBS

## 4,891

 fEMALE(27\% OF TOTAL)

(378
REGISTERED REFEREES
85\% MALE
15\% FEMALE

## OTHER FORMATS



SPECIFIC DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION PROGRAMS 274
Includes programs specifically for Cultural and Linguistically Diverse
Communities, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander \& All Ability participants

## 2019 TAS SUMWARY

N0
FOOTBALL TASMANIA

## TOTAL PARTICIPATION

$$
26,509
$$

45\% GROWTH ON 2018

## OUTDOOR AFFILIATED FOOTBALL



## OTHER FORMATS

fUTSAL
2,220
PARTICIPANTS

## 11\%

growth on 2018


## 2019 NT SUMMARY

FOOTBALL NORTHERN TERRITORY

TOTAL PARTICIPATION
9,731

15\% GROWTH ON 2018

WOMEN \& GIRLS PARTICIPATION 946

INCLUDES OUTDOOR, REGISTERED FUTSAL \& SOCIAL

OUTDOOR AFFILIATED FOOTBALL



[^0]:    *Total numbers include male, female and gender unspecified

