

MEDIA RELEASE

DATE: 11 August 2017



FIRST FEMALE CHANGE ROOMS FOR PEAKE THANKS TO \$168K FEMALE FACILITIES GRANT



Pictured: Flowers for Peake & District Sporting Club grants officer Kelli Harvey from President Haydn Weckert show just how much her efforts mean to the club.

Peake and District Sporting Club is set to build its first dedicated women's multi-purpose change room facilities after securing a \$168,000 Female Facilities Program grant with the support of Coorong District Council. The club will also upgrade its existing change rooms to make them female friendly.

Peake and District Sporting Club president Haydn Weckert was overjoyed to learn the club had been successful in its grant bid, which he said had taken two years to pursue.

"We are thrilled to have been successful," Mr Weckert said.

"Our sporting club is the hub of this district and this isn't just fantastic for the female members of our clubs, it's going to lift the morale of the whole community."

Mr Weckert said the club had recognised several years ago that it would take a significant financial commitment to develop its modest change room facilities for the next generation of male and female players, as well as providing its netballers with facilities closer to their netball courts.

"We just couldn't raise that kind of money, even with many of the grant options, which usually require a dollar-for-dollar contribution," he said.

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“Our netballers have had inadequate facilities for so long, and it’s really hard to encourage women into sport in rural areas. We now have a number of girls playing football in the Mallee league and they need access to their own facilities or they just won’t keep playing.

“This grant is really going to kick some goals for us and help us keep people around.”

The community had further reason to celebrate this week, with the club also recognised as a STARCLUB by the Office of Recreation and Sport.

The STARCLUB development program recognises well-run clubs where quality coaches and officials work alongside valued volunteers in a safe and welcoming environment.

Coorong District Council Mayor Neville Jaensch said the Peake and District Sporting Club was an institution for the remote agricultural district, and this significant project was a win for the entire community.

“In a Council region as broad as ours, entire communities are built around their football ovals and netball courts,” Mayor Jaensch said.

“The Peake community is to be commended for the many long hours they spend raising funds for its club and maintaining it, and for the enormous effort they’ve put into this grant application.

“This is a great example of a sector of our community that is creating its own opportunities, working together and fostering a new generation of socially conscious community members.”

The Female Facilities Program helps eligible organisations to develop sustainable, functional, inclusive and fit for purpose female change room facilities that meet the current and future needs of the South Australian sporting community.

The \$24 million program is an initiative of the Government of South Australia. With 120,000 girls and women in sport throughout South Australia, the program aims to ensure they have access to the same standard of facilities as men’s sports.

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