

# Yarra Club Development – Grants and Network Session 2025



# Acknowledgement of Country

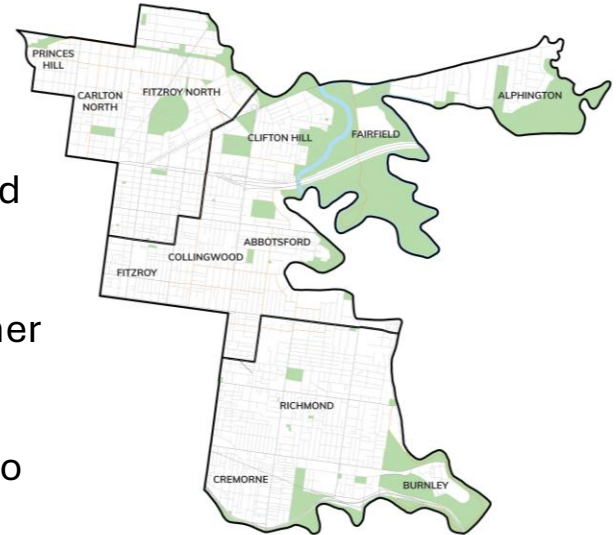


## Wominjeka

Yarra City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people as the Traditional Owners and true sovereigns of the land now known as Yarra.

We also acknowledge the significant contributions made by other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to life in Yarra.

We pay our respects to Elders from all nations here today, and to their Elders past, present and future.



# Introductions



**Joel Matthews** (he/him) – Participation Officer, Recreation Team,  
Yarra City Council

**Bill Mallinson** (he/him) – Sport & Rec Manager Metro Melbourne,  
RecLink

**Elise Sampson** (she/her) – Health Promotion Manager,  
Cohealth

# Session Outline



## Part 1

### Yarra Community Grants & Local Organisations

- Available funding streams
- How to apply
- Examples of grant funded sport and recreation projects
- Introducing local organisations

## Break

- Network!
- Refreshments

## Part 2

### Activity and discussion, Bringing grant ideas to life

- Developing grant ideas
- Rotating discussions
- Club support



# What's the purpose of today's session?



- ☐ Understand the new Yarra Community Grants and your club's role in the community
- ☐ Understand key principles of grant applications
- ☐ Start shaping your club's project and ideas
- ☐ Learn about opportunities for local partnerships

# Funding Available



## Reorganised funding streams:

- **Healthy, Inclusive and Connected Communities**
- Vibrant and Resilient Local Economies
- Creative City and Cultural Participation
- First Peoples Self-Determination and Partnerships
- A Climate-Resilient and Adapted City
- Safe, Clean and Welcoming Neighbourhoods

## Key Dates:

**Applications open: 8<sup>th</sup> September – 19<sup>th</sup> October**

**Outcome announced: 17<sup>th</sup> December**

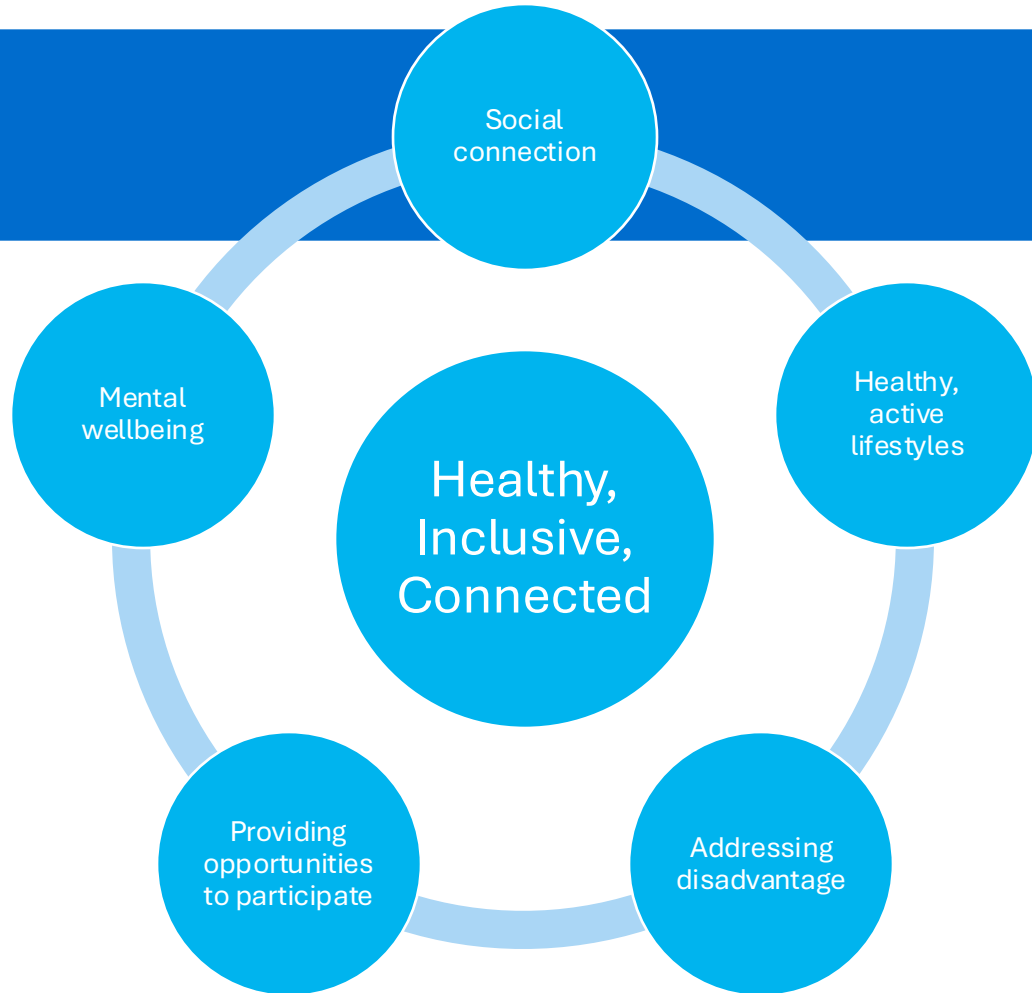
**Projects to start from: January 2026**

Grant size	Suitable for
Small (quick response): up to \$4,000	Single events, pilot projects, <50 participants (one per applicant)
Medium: \$4,001-\$20,000	Multi-activity projects, short-term programmes
Large: \$20,001 - \$40,000	Partnership driven, long-term impact
<b>Total pool: \$1.54m</b>	-----

# Discuss



What does 'Healthy, Inclusive, Connected' look like at your club?





# Last year...



Yarra City Council funded:

- Female participation initiatives
- Child safety training
- Physical activity for older residents with chronic disabilities
- Alternative venue hire to support local club partnerships
- Diversity and inclusion events (Ramadan, all abilities, LGBTQIA+)



# Writing your application



## What to include:

- ☐ Objectives and aims of the project
- ☐ Budget (attach financial statement)
- ☐ The project's benefit/contribution to the wider community
- ☐ Evidence to support your project e.g. data/insight, quotes, etc.
- ☐ The sustainability of the project
- ☐ Any relevant partnerships

## What to avoid:

- ☐ Being unclear on the project's purpose & outcomes
- ☐ Uncosted budget lines
- ☐ Delivering a continuation of something you already do
- ☐ An isolated project that doesn't consider wider links to the community

# What can we fund?



## **The following are ineligible or unlikely to be funded:**

- Continuation of something already being delivered
- Uniforms or standard equipment (e.g. balls, kits, uniforms) **UNLESS** targeting an underrepresented group
- Core business costs (team registrations, coaching fees, membership subsidies)

# City of Yarra club network event

*Bill Mallinson*

*Sport and Recreation Manager, Metro  
Melbourne*

*[bill.mallinson@reclink.org](mailto:bill.mallinson@reclink.org)*

*0423 510 498*

# About Reclink



## Why we exist

Our programs provide moments of joy, human connection, opportunity and a sense of purpose for participants.



## How we achieve this

We nurture meaningful and fruitful partnerships. We curate a national network of social service agencies (members of Reclink) and connect them to our values-aligned partners in the sport and recreation industry, Government, the corporate sector and other supporters.



## Our impact

Through our partnerships and programs our participants will achieve better physical health, better mental health and greater social inclusion.



## Reclink's National Impact and Reach



**196,161**

Participations

**16,347**

Avg participations  
per month

**10,466**

Sessions

**872**

Avg sessions  
per month

**29.5%**

Female

**33.4%**

Male

**0.2%**

Gender diverse

**36.9%**

Choose not to disclose

### Most popular activities:



**1.**  
Multi Sport



**2.**  
Fitness,  
Gym and  
Swim



**3.**  
Basketball



**4.**  
Soccer



**5.**  
Football  
(Aussie Rules)

**30%**

Culturally and  
linguistically  
diverse  
participants

**3%**

Aboriginal and  
Torres Strait  
Islander  
participants

**77**

Local  
Government  
Areas with  
Reclink programs

**15%**

Participants  
with disability

**43%**

Under 25s

# Reclink impacts

**77%**

Have been more active than usual  
since participating with Reclink



**71%**

Have been more confident than usual  
since participating with Reclink



**72%**

Have been feeling better  
about themselves since  
participating with Reclink



**We specialise in  
helping our  
participants deal with**

Isolation,  
Their Physical Health, and  
Their Mental Health

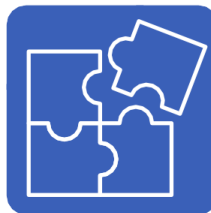


**80%**

Have met more people since  
participating with Reclink

**73%**

Have felt more a part of the  
community since  
participating with Reclink



**71%**

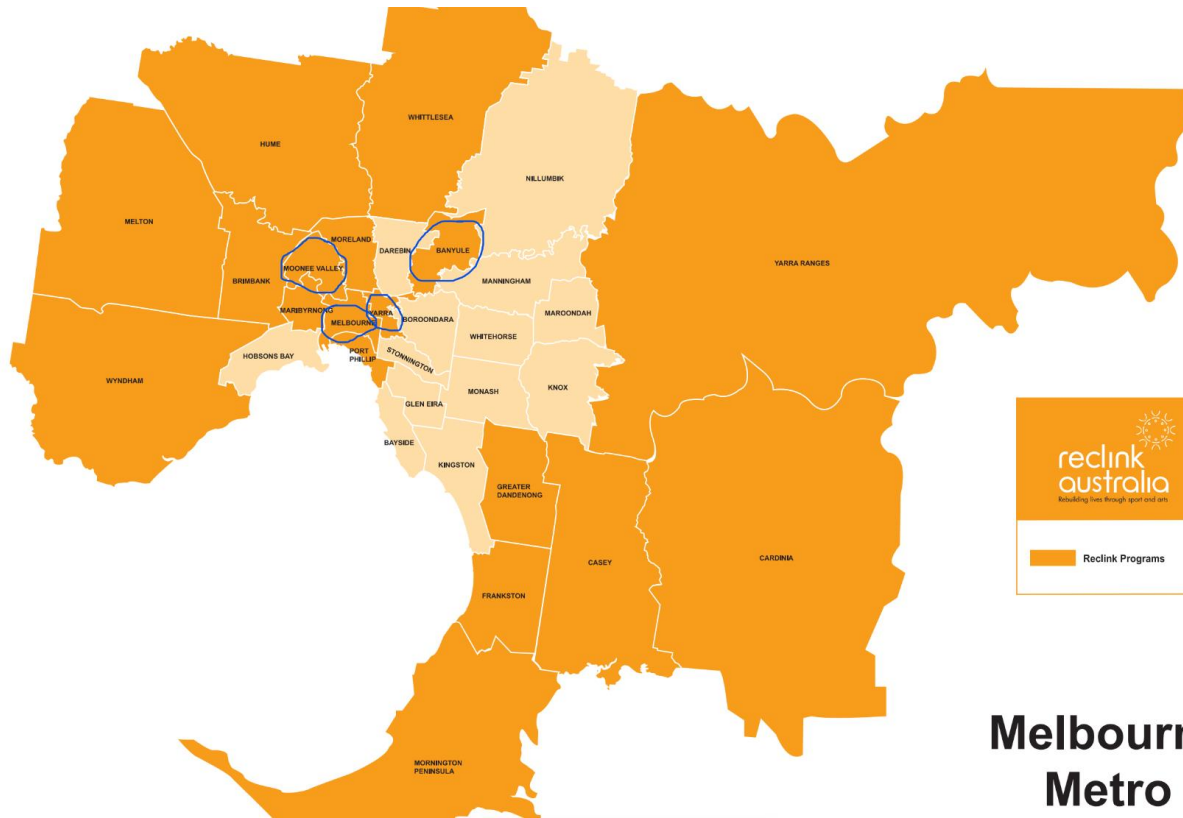
Are more aware of other support services  
since participating with Reclink

# north metro focus



1. Melbourne
2. Yarra
3. Banyule
4. Moonee Valley

Programs delivered in partnership with our community service agencies, local facilities, primary health providers, police and correctional services, sporting clubs, schools, and state sporting associations.



**Melbourne  
Metro**



# target groups

- at risk of homelessness
- engagement with the criminal justice system
- alcohol and drug addiction
- domestic violence
- long-term unemployment
- mental health illness
- women and girls
- Disengaged youth
- CALD
- Horn of Africa
- Pasifika
- Indigenous communities



# weekly schedule

(Yarra, Banyule, Melbourne, Maribyrnong, Moonee Valley)



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Information
<b>Body Confidence with Natalie</b> 11:00am – 12:00pm North Richmond Community Hub	<b>Her Fight – Women's Boxing</b> 11:00am – 12:00pm Olympic Leisure Centre  <b>Women's Basketball</b> 4:00pm – 5:00pm North Melbourne Community Centre	<b>Pilates with Elaine</b> 11:00am – 12:00pm Kensington Town Hall  <b>Dance Fit with Amanda</b> 1:30pm – 2:30pm North Richmond Community hub	<b>Child Friendly Women's Fitness</b> 12:00pm – 1:00pm Carlton Baths	<b>Women's Self Defense</b> 11:00am – 12:00pm Melbourne City Baths  <b>Gym and Swim Program</b> 11:00am – 12:30pm Melbourne City Baths  <b>All Abilities Pickleball</b> 1:00pm – 2:00pm Carlton Baths  <b>Women's Swimming Program</b> 6:00pm – 7:45pm Olympic Leisure Centre  <b>Women's Ramadan Sport and Fitness</b> 11:00pm – 1:00am North Melbourne Community Centre	<b>Melbourne Term 2 Schedule</b>  For more information please contact:  Eliza Cole Sports Coordinator 0459 258 566 eliza.cole@reclink.org




## ALL ABILITIES FISHING CLINICS

- ✓ Free and inclusive
- ✓ Wheelchair accessible
- ✓ All equipment provided
- ✓ No experience necessary
- ✓ Various locations around Victoria
- ✓ Specialised equipment suited to your needs

Get outside, connect with others and enjoy the thrill of fishing. These fun and welcoming clinics are designed for people of all abilities!




### REGISTRATION REQUIRED

SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT  
<https://club.reclink.org/programs/9TP5RX/signup>



### CONTACT

Emily Jans - Senior Sports Coordinator  
[emily.jans@reclink.org](mailto:emily.jans@reclink.org)  
 0423 316 993





## ALL ABILITIES PICKLEBALL

FREE PROGRAM

SCAN TO REGISTER



<https://club.reclink.org/programs/VLA39H/signup>

### PROGRAM DETAILS

-  All genders aged 16+ years
-  Fridays | March 7 - April 11
-  1:00pm - 2:00pm
-  **Carlton Baths**  
Indoor Stadium Courts  
248 Rathdowne Street, Carlton

- ✓ Facilitated program
- ✓ Fun, safe and inclusive
- ✓ Equipment provided



### CONTACT

Eliza Cole - Sports Coordinator - [eliza.cole@reclink.org](mailto:eliza.cole@reclink.org) - 0459 258 566



FREE PROGRAM

# WOMEN'S SELF DEFENCE

SCAN TO REGISTER



<https://club.reclink.org/programs/JRWLNWD/signup>

- ✓ Experienced female trainer
- ✓ All abilities welcome
- ✓ Fun, safe and inclusive
- ✓ Equipment provided

 Women aged 16 years +

 Fridays | March 7 - April 11

 11:00am - 12:00pm

 **Melbourne City Baths**  
Group Fitness Room (Level 2)  
420 Swanston St, Melb, 3000

CONTACT

Eliza Cole - CBD Sports Coordinator  
eliza.cole@reclink.org | 0459 258 566



# WOMEN ONLY

## GYM & STADIUM TIME

**ADDITIONAL HOURS DURING RAMADAN**  
**AT NORTH MELBOURNE COMMUNITY CENTRE**

No Cost for Entry

Every **Friday** from the  
7th of March - 28th of March 2025

**11PM - 1AM**

Casual Shooting in the Stadium or Gym Session



ACTIVE MELBOURNE  
NORTH MELBOURNE  
COMMUNITY CENTRE



reclink  
australia





# Reclink Footy

- 14 teams across Victoria
- all abilities and genders league, ages 16+
- games played midday Wednesday fortnightly
- Metro Melbourne teams include
  - Collingwood Magpies – Abbotsford
  - Salvo Hawks – Hawthorn East
  - CoHealth Kangaroos - Kensington
  - Dardi Spirit – Thornbury



# Creating Meaningful Programs

1. **partnerships**
2. **identify need/gaps** (in current community programming)
3. **co-design program** (eg weekly / pop-up event / holiday, activity)
4. **facility/venue** (eg leisure centre, park, community centre)
5. **Reclink staff/external facilitators** (availability, budget, cultural sensitivity)
6. **promotion**
7. **registration** (Club Reclink online portal)





aaa>play

A Victorian Government initiative in  
partnership with Reclink Australia



- online service that helps people with disability find sport and active recreation activities across Victoria
- run by Reclink Australia for the Victorian Government.
- new aaaplay website meets highest standard of digital accessibility (WCAG 2.2 AAA) and was co-designed with people who have lived experience of disability.

## How aaaplay can help you

- list your sport and recreation activities and events for free
- list facilities in your regions and highlight their accessibility features
- aaaplay can also share your stories, news, events and resources
- refer people you work with (clients, participants etc.) to the aaaplay service
- reach a wide and diverse audience - the website is used by many groups including people with a disability, sporting clubs and associations, local council

## Connect with us

- for general enquiries, fill out the [Contact Us Form](#) on the website
- if you have an activity you would like to add to the website, please fill out the [New Activity Form – aaaplay](#)
- Subscribe to the [aaaplay newsletter](#) to stay in the loop

# Rainbow Ready Clubs Program

Proud2Play™

cohealth  
care for all



# What cohealth is about

cohealth is one of Australia's largest not-for-profit community health organisations. We strive to **improve health and wellbeing for all**.

Our Health Promotion team works with diverse communities, including **LGBTIQ+** people, to create fair, and lasting change that **supports health** and celebrates people's strengths.



# What's the context?

Participate in physical activity **helps body development, improves strength, coordination and mental health**, and **reduces non-communicable diseases in adulthood** (AIHW, 2018)

**92%** of Australians aged **12-17 yrs do not meet** the physical activity level required every day (Vic Health, 2018)

**~4.5%** of Australians 16 yrs + are LGBTIQ+ (ABS, 2024)

**~21%** Australian high school students LGBTQIA+ (Minus 18, 2024)



# What's the concern?

**80%** of individuals have **witnessed or experienced homophobia** on the sports field

(Proud2Play, 2025)

87% of gay males, 75% of lesbians are **completely or partially in the closet** while playing youth sports

(Drummond et al., 2021)

70% of gay youth participating in sports **do not feel safe**

(Denison, et al 2015)

# Barriers and enablers experienced by LGBTQIA+ youth (12-18 years old) when participating in sports, physical education and physical activity.

## Literature Review

# LGBTQIA+ inclusion: Relationships influence health behaviours

## Enablers

- Supportive ally, family member or schoolteacher

## Barriers

- Unable to disclosure gender identity
- Experience of homophobic or transphobic language
- Re-enforce gender norms
- Over importance of stereotypically masculine principles





# LGBTQIA+ inclusion: Our system impact our health

## Enablers

- Active bystander & allyship training
- Visual indicators for inclusion

## Barriers

- Splitting activities based on gender, bathrooms, and uniforms.



## **Recommendation:**

- Create inclusive environments, flexible implementation of curriculum & uniform policy within sports and school settings.
- Revise policies to support LGBTQIA+ inclusion, demonstrate inclusion practices online & in settings.

**What can you influence or change in the settings you work?**  
**Who can you talk to raise the voice of LGBT+ youth?**

# What Proud2Play is about



Education



Policy



Research



Events



Partnerships





# What is Rainbow Ready?

Rainbow Ready Clubs is a Proud2Play initiative designed to transform sports **clubs into inclusive and supportive environments for LGBTIQ+ individuals**

Through a practical roadmap, clubs embed inclusion into their **core practices, policies, and processes.**

## 3 Core Objectives:

- Attract and engage LGBTIQ+ people
- Create positive, supportive experiences
- Tackle discrimination (e.g. homophobia, biphobia, transphobia, intersexism)



# Duration of the Program

All Sports clubs need to start by signing a **Statement of Commitment**

<b>Meet &amp; Greet</b>	30 minutes
<b>Assess</b>	2 hours
<b>Educate</b>	2 - 4 hours
<b>Consult</b>	3 hours
<b>Engage</b>	3 hours
<b>Enact</b>	ongoing



The duration of the Rainbow Ready Clubs program varies, ranging from 3 to 9 months.

## How can you sign up?

Scan the QR code to know more

Reach out to us for more information at:

[healthpromotion@cohealth.org.au](mailto:healthpromotion@cohealth.org.au)

For more details about the program visit:

<https://www.proud2play.org.au/rainbow-ready>



# Activity

Have a go at section 1 on your worksheet.

Discuss with the person next to you.



# Break



# Working with Communities

## Good Sports and Yarra Clubs



Darcie Chadwick  
16/06/2025



# A quick intro



- Australia's leading alcohol and other drug (AOD) harm prevention organisation – now in our 65<sup>th</sup> year.
- Good Sports is a core program of the ADF.
- It's Australia's largest community health sports program with 12,000+ clubs on board.
- We've been working with community sports clubs – of all codes – for 25 years.





## The GS problem...

Community based sporting clubs can be environments that expose members to unregulated and problematic alcohol use and related harm.

## The GS solution...

A program that supports clubs to strengthen policies and practices to prevent harm from AOD and promote a healthier, safer and more family friendly environment.

# Good Sports



- Supports clubs to strengthen policies and practices to prevent harm from AOD.
- Helps promote a healthier, safer and more family friendly environment.
- Relationship Managers guide clubs to implement action plans and overcome obstacles.
- Free to join and easy-to-use online portal.
- And more relevant today than ever before.





# Building positive club cultures



- Build club knowledge and confidence to develop and maintain policies and practices that prevent or reduce AOD harm.
- Increase awareness of mental health and AOD supports and how to access help.
- Prevent or reduce children's exposure to alcohol use in sport.
- Contribute to the creation of a safer and inclusive environment for members.
- Build diversified and sustainable funding to prevent reliance on alcohol sponsorship.

# Case Study – Soccer club



- When every single member turned up to help with the clean up after 2023 annual event, the club knew they had done something right.
- A year earlier, only six members had come to lend a hand. In 12 months, there had been a shift at the club - morale was high and teamwork came first.
- The club committee attributes the change to their commitment to become a more family-friendly community club. With the help of Good Sports, they started focusing on inclusivity – the result is a club that members are truly proud of.
- With the support of the program, the club became compliant with liquor licensing laws and trained 20 members in RSA.
- According to the club, these small changes have had a significant impact on the club. Members and visitors have embraced the new 'family-feel', leading to an increase in club profits and interest from sponsors.
- “This award shows that working together as a club you can change morale, and create safer, vibrant environments for all club members and the wider community.”

# Recorded Vaping Webinar

This webinar provides you with the confidence to address vaping at your club – and make a policy.

- Watch the webinar – ***and please share it!***
- Access the Resources Kit
- Develop a Vaping Policy
- Share content with your club members



# Questions?



**Feel free to reach out to:**

Darcie Chadwick

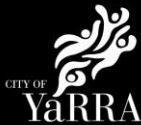
[darcie.chadwick@adf.org.au](mailto:darcie.chadwick@adf.org.au)



# Red Tag Fly Fishers – Catch a Rainbow



# Activity



Break into groups on 3 different tables. Each table will have a different discussion prompt.

Feel free to discuss past experiences or something you aspire to deliver. Try and make notes on activity 2 on your worksheets as you discuss ideas.

## **Table discussions:**

- What are my club's priorities in the next 12 months? (e.g. participation, workforce, safeguarding, inclusion, community partnerships, etc)
- Who are our current and potential audiences? What barriers might they face to participating at our club?
- What resource/skills do we have at our club? Where is it lacking?

# Next Steps - Activity

Have a go at Activity 4 on your worksheets.

What's one action you'll take after today?

Who do you need to contact?

What help do you need?



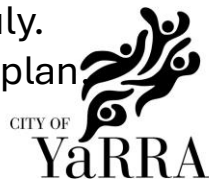
# Next Steps: Recommendations



**Develop your grant application** - Reach out to the recreation team for a chat around your ideas. Promote discussions at your club (get member and community feedback!).

**Sign up for the GamePlan club capability tool** - See <https://www.yarracity.vic.gov.au/things-to-do/sports-grounds-exercise-and-fitness-equipment/helping-local-clubs-develop> for recorded information session. We will be moving all club development resources onto this platform.

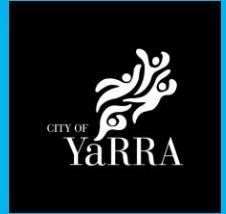
**Work with us on Fair Access** - Facilities allocations policy in effect from 1<sup>st</sup> July. All clubs using council facilities are required to develop a gender equity action plan. Recorded support materials coming in July.



**Reach out to organisations here today** – Are there any opportunities for collaboration? How could it strengthen your club?



# Thank You



## Questions?

**Contact Us:** [recreation@yarracity.vic.gov.au](mailto:recreation@yarracity.vic.gov.au)

[joel.matthews@yarracity.vic.gov.au](mailto:joel.matthews@yarracity.vic.gov.au)