

IMPROVING GENDER EQUALITY, TOGETHER

MOUNT BARKER FC

FEMALE FRIENDLY FACILITIES

AT A GLANCE

- New custom-built female friendly amenities
- Improved access and participation opportunities for females
- Upgrading quality and functionality of facilities for all
- Teaching and coaching spaces and resources
- Interior features to promote club values and develop culture

IN NUMBERS

- \$539,803 invested, including \$22,000 from the Australian Football Facilities Fund
- 8 unisex showers
- 2 new umpire rooms
- First female friendly change space in the region

THE BACKGROUND

TIME TO CHANGE

A lot has changed since the development of the Mount Barker Football Club facilities 40 years ago. As the popularity of female football grew, Mount Barker Football Club's female players were using the old amenities block limited to one toilet, a urinal and six open showers with a single communal change room. To match the growth of the sport, the facilities needed an upgrade.

THE PROCESS

SUPPORTING FEMALE FOOTBALL

With the support of the AFL's Australian Football Facilities Fund and the State Government, the Mount Barker Football Club was able to develop a stand-alone, purpose-built change room facility. Extensive consultation took place throughout the project, with a focus on female stakeholders, resulting in unique design features to enhance the usability and longevity of the space.

THE RESULT

WITH OPEN ARMS

The new amenities have seen on and off-field growth for the Mount Barker Football Club and its community. On field, female participation has

increased and off-field, the Club has experienced greater family participation and increased spectator attendance, sponsorship and community involvement.

The upgraded facilities have done more than improve the space. They have reinvigorated the culture of the club. The walls are adorned with club logos, philosophies and murals, preserving the club's future while welcoming new participants with open arms. Junior players have adopted the space as their own, singing the Club song after the match and using the facilities with pride. Features that allow for more flexible use of the space, including the addition of a movable partition, have opened up the facility to host multiple teams, as well as catering for a more diverse participation base by hosting male and female teams at the same time. In addition, two new umpire rooms have been developed, providing facilities to accommodate increased female participation in all facets of the game.

THE FUTURE

EMBRACING THE NEXT CHAPTER

The project features the first unisex change amenity in the Adelaide Hills region, setting the standard for future amenities that support female participation. The number of female teams has increased to five and the increased participation encouraged surrounding clubs to introduce new female programs.



The Mt Barker project has raised the enthusiasm around the club. Having a new female facility hasn't just benefited women and girls but has had an unexpected positive impact on all our club members and the wider community. The rooms are lighter, brighter and welcoming. They are now being accessed by all sectors of our club and the community, a benefit we didn't anticipate when we started the project.

Scott Filmer
Mt Barker Football Club

