



AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL FACILITIES FUND




2026

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Footy is a game played, watched and loved by millions of Australians across the Country.

With nearly 3,000 women and girls football teams participating across Australia, it has never been more important to ensure facilities are fit-for-purpose, meet evolving local community needs and enhance the football experience for all. Nearly 1,500 grounds are now used for female football, an increase of 845 grounds since AFLW commenced.

It is the AFL's responsibility to ensure that the game can be accessed by every single person in Australia.

AFL PURPOSE	Progress the game, so everyone can share in its heritage and possibilities.		
AFL GAME DEVELOPMENT PURPOSE	To enable great experiences for more people; to foster life-long connections with our game.		
OUR AIM FOR FACILITIES	To enable the provision of well positioned, welcoming, accessible, fit-for-purpose football facilities that support our growing game's strategic priorities.		
Our goals and objectives for Australian facilities	 GOAL 1: Build the capacity of community football	 GOAL 2: Enhance elite, state league and talent infrastructure	 GOAL 3: Drive innovation and growth
	Australian football facilities that are fit-for-purpose, meet evolving local community needs and enhance the football experience for all	High quality infrastructure and playing surfaces that meets the needs of AFL/W and State League competitions and talent pathways	New, bold and innovative approaches to providing venues that increase access to football for more people in more locations
Key strategic priorities	1.1 Improve facilities to provide greater access and opportunity for our diverse football community 1.2 Maximise the carrying capacity of existing ovals and the quality and functionality of supporting venue infrastructure 1.3 Improve the football experience for Indigenous Australians in remote areas	2.1 AFLW venues that support competition expansion 2.2 State League and talent pathway venues to inspire and support our very best 2.3 Build stadia capabilities to showcase our game 2.4 Create opportunities for Indigenous talent to grow, develop and thrive on and off the field	3.1 Drive the supply of new facilities in areas most in need 3.2 Innovate through indoor venues 3.3 Flexible, equitable and innovative approaches to facility use

Through research, we know that the positive social impact that community football has on society is immense, causing a ripple effect across the entire community. The reach is powerful and plays a crucial role in the lives of millions.

The AFL's Towards 2030 Plan, is a national framework that enables the provision of well positioned, welcoming, accessible, fit-for-purpose football facilities that support the growth of our game.

We do this by building the capacity of and meeting the needs of evolving communities. We aim to establish and enhance the infrastructure for the elite game. We continue to innovate the game's approach to venues to increase access for more people in more locations.

Towards 2030 provides our game, our stakeholders and partners with guidance and an aligned direction. It has been developed to provide certainty and security around our existing facility footprint and to identify the new and innovative opportunities we need to deliver to continue to grow and ensure Australian football is accessible to all.

Since 2017, our sport has invested more than \$130 million so we can partner with Local, State and Federal governments in generating more than 3,500 venue network improvements, ensuring our grassroots facilities are more welcoming, inclusive and gender friendly.

Over 620,000 people are registered to participate in community football across junior, youth and senior club footy, AFL Nines, NAB AFL Auskick and the newly introduced, NAB AFL Superkick. In 2025, registered participation has hit record levels, surpassing the previous high set in 2024. The game can only flourish at the elite level with a strong grassroots foundation and further growth means the game is on track to hit the stated aim of one million participants by 2033, which is backed by the AFL enshrining 10 per cent of the game's total revenue to go towards game development.

With this comes the challenge to provide well-positioned, welcoming, accessible, fit-for-purpose football facilities that support the game's growth, with overall participation numbers rising and the popularity of football for women and girls surging.

Our sport needs to create access to the equivalent of 2 new grounds every week to keep pace with our participation aspirations, through rebuilds or brand-new builds.

The implementation of Towards 2030 is underpinned by ongoing investment through the Australian Football Facilities Fund and the various AFL State and Territory based funding programs available. These funds are also used to identify and develop projects in areas where participation in Australian Football requires access to additional green spaces.

In conjunction with our stakeholders, the AFL facilities team and available funding programs summarised below, will help drive beneficial outcomes for the local community and the game of Australian football.



The AFL, in conjunction with State and Territory football and government partners, believe we have a responsibility to sustainably plan for Australia's future. Through the AFL's Towards 2030 Plan, we have prioritised our critical facility needs and will align our investment to best address and support the delivery of community needs and to also meet government's broader objectives.

Staged and shared investment is the key to success, and we know that when we invest, significant projects and outcomes are delivered.

HOW TO APPLY

- » Interested applicants need to liaise with their respective AFL State or Territory body to discuss their proposal to ensure eligibility against specific funding program guidelines.
- » Subject to endorsement, applicants must then develop their proposal further for funding consideration and State/Territory based assessment criteria, via the online application form.
- » The respective steering committees and assessment panels will consider all lodged applications that are endorsed/ supported by State and Territory contacts when they convene.

NATIONAL AFFF VENUES MOST IN NEED

- » Supporting the provision of well positioned, welcoming, accessible, fit for purpose football facilities.
- » Aims to maximise the carrying capacity of existing venues, develop new and increased carrying capacity through construction of new ovals, develop venues to support the talent pathway, umpiring, landmark heritage sites, undertaken planning with a range of government and non-government bodies and provide immediate support for those directly affected by natural disasters throughout Australia.
- » <https://play.afl/facility-management/funding>

NATIONAL BREAKING NEW GROUND

- » Designed to assist schools, local governments, developers, grassroots community Australian football clubs, umpiring organisations and other landowners to better develop accessible football spaces in communities across Australia.
- » Aims to develop increased supply through the construction of new ovals, maximise the carrying capacity and accessibility of new places to play, enable planning and project partnerships to form and develop venues to support the sport's complete talent pathway, umpiring, staff and people working and volunteering within the game.
- » To discuss an innovative idea or partnership opportunity at your site email bnground@afl.com.au.

NSW FACILITIES FUND

- » Across NSW ~300 fields are used for Australian football, with this number increasing annually as record numbers of players are attracted to our game.
- » The fund aims to increase the capacity of ovals and develop gender neutral, welcoming and inclusive facilities for players and umpires.
- » <https://play.afl/nswact/facilities>

ACT COMMUNITY FOOTBALL FACILITIES FUND (CFFF)

- » A fund that assists local clubs and stakeholders to develop AFL related infrastructure at ACT located venues to meet the required needs and have the capacity to grow the game, having a particular focus on developing the basic infrastructure required for community football growth, capacity and development such as change rooms and lighting.
- » Provide an inclusive experience, host night matches to accommodate female growth and enable flexible fixturing across the competition.
- » Support planning document and financially support individual venue upgrade plans.
- » <https://play.afl/nswact/facilities>

VICTORIAN COUNTRY FOOTBALL AND NETBALL PROGRAM (CFNP)

- » In partnership with the Victoria State Government and Netball Victoria, the CFNP provides funding to Local Government Authorities in rural, regional and outer metropolitan locations to assist country football and netball clubs, associations and umpiring organisations to improve/ develop facilities.
- » Funding is available to deliver projects that can include installation or upgrade of sports lighting, construction of new or redevelopment of existing pavilions including gender neutral change rooms for players and umpires, construction of new or redeveloped ovals or netball courts.
- » <https://play.afl/victoria/facilities>



AFLQ FOOTBALL FACILITIES FUND

- » In partnership with the Queensland Government and the AFL, the fund originated as a legacy from hosting the historic 2020 AFL Grand Final at the Gabba.
- » The AFL Queensland Football Facilities Fund provides funding to assist local governments, grassroots community Australian football clubs, umpiring organisations and schools to develop AFL facilities across Queensland.
- » <https://play.afl/queensland/facilities>

TASMANIAN COMMUNITY FOOTBALL FACILITIES FUND

- » AFL Tasmania's '28 by 28' vision outlines a bold ambition of reaching 28,000 participants by the time the Tasmania Devils enter the AFL and AFLW competitions and outlines a plan for the access to or upgrade / development of 70 ovals across the state in the same period.
- » This program will assist local clubs and stakeholders to develop community football related infrastructure at Tasmanian venues to improve existing facilities, but to also unlock facility possibilities to best cater for increased participation.
- » <https://play.afl/tasmania/facilities>

SA FOOTBALL FACILITIES FUND

- » The \$8 million partnership between SANFL, South Australian Government and AFL will run for 3 years and is part of the legacy of hosting Gather Round in SA.
- » Enables SANFL, AFL and the State Government to achieve the shared strategic vision of creating welcoming and inclusive facilities, particularly through provision of all gender changerooms for players, officials and umpires, as well as maximising venue capacities by improving quality of ovals, lighting and supporting infrastructure.
- » Deliver a targeted strategic approach to investment that meet the growing needs of our participants now and in the future.
- » Support increased capacity of existing football venues to meet the growing number of teams and unlocking new venues to cater for future growth.
- » <https://sanfl.com.au/communityfootball/grants-fundraising-facilities/safff/>

WA FOOTBALL FACILITIES FUND

- » Enables West Australian Football Commission and the AFL to create safer and more inclusive spaces for community sport venues where football is played.
- » Unisex amenities, improved lighting and playing surface upgrades are high strategic priorities to accommodate for the exponential growth and changing landscape of participation in sport.
- » Develop increased supply through construction of new ovals, especially in growing communities, in a variety of traditional or innovative settings.
- » <https://wafootball.com.au/wafc/facilities>

CONTACT US

For more information, head to <https://play.afl/facility-management/funding> or contact your relevant football representative:

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