



# LEAD YOUR WAY

2026 QLD PROGRAM GUIDE

APPLICATIONS OPEN: 1 DEC 2025  
APPLICATIONS CLOSE: 30 JAN 2026

# LEAD YOUR WAY 2026

Lead Your Way 2026 is calling on women and gender-diverse leaders in community football to elevate your skills, grow your network, and make your mark this season.

If you're a current committee level volunteer at a community football club in QLD this program is designed for you. Engage in a dynamic mix of online and in-person events led by expert facilitators and football industry leaders. From interactive webinars to hands-on workshops, capped off with a celebratory end of program event, Lead Your Way is your opportunity to build confidence, strengthen leadership, and kick goals on and off the field.

Applications for the 2026 program close at 11:59 PM AEDT on Friday 30th January 2026. Read on for all the details and get ready to Lead Your Way.

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## ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Lead Your Way is designed to strengthen the leadership capabilities of women and gender-diverse individuals through a dynamic series of development and networking events. Now entering its third year, the program has built a thriving alumni community of over 1,000 participants across Australia.

Regardless of your state or territory, Lead Your Way offers a consistent and high-quality experience, with tailored elements to reflect local needs and contexts.

In 2026, QLD will deliver Lead Your Way to support volunteers currently holding leadership roles within community football clubs or umpiring groups. The program is specifically designed for senior leaders operating at committee, board, or executive levels.

Running from March through to October, the program schedule will be shared with successful applicants as dates are confirmed.

## PROGRAM FORMAT

The program is a mix of in-person and online activities which includes:

- A launch event
- Online education webinars
- A state based in person conference

## THE PROGRAM SCHEDULE

### MARCH 2026

Program launch and meet-and-greet event welcoming the new 2026 participants.

### APRIL 2026

First online webinar: Program introduction delivered alongside Club Governance & Leadership for 2026 participants and LYW alumni.

### JUNE 2026

Lead Your Way Conference. In person education, development and networking for 2026 participants.

### JULY 2026

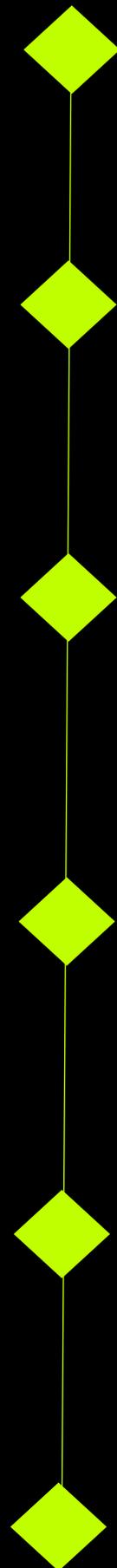
National webinar: Women's Coaching Month + Navigating the Football Environment for 2026 participants and LYW alumni.

### AUGUST 2026

Second online webinar: Volunteer Engagement & Development for 2026 participants and LYW alumni.

### OCTOBER 2026

Lead Your Way in person celebration event





## WORDS FROM OUR 2025 PARTICIPANTS



The BHP Lead Your Way program gave me the confidence to be a passionate advocate for women’s and girls’ AFL at our Club Committee meetings. It strengthened my understanding of what effective leadership looks like and helped me recognise the impact I can have in creating a supportive, inclusive, and empowering environment at our club. One of the main things I took away was the importance of leading with authenticity – showing up as your true self, staying curious, and taking the time to genuinely listen to others. The program encouraged me to ask thoughtful questions, challenge ideas respectfully, and approach every situation with empathy and an open mind. It also highlighted the value of celebrating what makes each person unique, fostering a growth mindset, and recognising how sport contributes across all dimensions of health and wellbeing. I now feel more capable of setting meaningful goals, building momentum around positive change, and empowering others to join in that journey.

**Gay Maynard**  
**Tweed Coast Tigers AFC**

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To participate in the program, applicants must:

- Identify as a woman or gender diverse
- Be over the age of 18 & reside within the State/ Territory of application
- Hold a current leadership position as a committee volunteer within a community football club or umpire association, or be a future committee volunteer as part of succession planning

## DIVERSITY

The program seeks a diverse cohort to ensure an intersectional approach to leadership within club communities, and to support the goals of inclusive and diverse environments as included in the AFL Women and Girls Action plan.

This includes but is not limited to people identifying as:

- Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
- Culturally and/or religiously diverse people
- LGBTIQ+
- People from rural and regional communities
- People with disabilities.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

If your questions are not answered throughout this document, please visit the Lead Your Way landing page for more information. Alternatively, reach out to the team (contact details on page 5)

## SELECTION CRITERIA

In your application, you will be asked to share information on the following:

- General information
- Your community football club
- A key contact/ reference from your club to endorse
- Your leadership position
- Why you are interested in the program
- What you hope to gain from participating in the program

Your application responses should show:

- Your leadership experience in community sport
- Why you want to be a part of this program
- Your personal leadership goals/what you want to achieve through Lead Your Way
- Consideration for how this program can lead to positive improvement

## CONTACT INFORMATION

For further details about the Women & Girls Action Plan:

[\*\*AFL Club Help: Women & Girls\*\*](#)

Mia Miller  
Women & Girls Experience Lead  
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## HOW TO APPLY

Applicants are encouraged to carefully review the program details, including eligibility, selection criteria, and key dates, to assess their suitability and availability to participate in the scheduled sessions.

Applications must be submitted by 11:59 PM AEDT on Friday, 30 January 2026.

The selection panel will assess applications as they are received and may seek feedback or endorsement from relevant staff within QLD. In some cases, applicants or their referees may be contacted to provide further information.

All applicants will be notified of the outcome via email no later than Tuesday 24th February 2026.

# APPLY NOW

[APPLICATION FORM](#)

## KEY DATES



Applications open: Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2025

Applications close: Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Applicants notified: Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2026



**PLAY.AFL**