



2024-2025 ANNUAL REPORT





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OUR CLUBS, VOLUNTEERS, AND FANS MAKE TERRITORY FOOTBALL TRULY EXTRAORDINARY

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

In the Northern Territory, Australian Rules football is more than a game. It is a central part of Territory life and our civic society. The truth of this statement can be seen week in, week out on the fields of play throughout the Territory, in the numbers of players, coaches, umpires, committee members and volunteers who make the game happen every week, and in the growing sense of confidence and purpose amongst the 60 AFLNT staff, who work Territory-wide under the leadership of Sam Gibson.

Because of the hard work of so many it is a privilege to Chair the AFLNT Board and be involved in the custodianship of our national game with fellow directors Lincoln Jenkins, Kathleen Cole, Dianne Borella, Josie Douglas, Tom Wilcox, Tony Fuller and Rob Auld.

In 2024/25 we again enjoyed the support of incredible sponsors who invest generously in Territory football, especially our Premier Partners - I thank Cazalys Palmerston Club, TIO, MACC, and the Australian and Northern Territory Governments for their continued support.

I acknowledge the AFL for its leadership and commitment to the growth of the game in the Territory. This year the AFL has made a direct financial contribution of over \$4 million to football in the Northern Territory in addition to its general administrative support and oversight, enabling us to continue to grow the game at the grassroots.

In 2025 there were three Toyota AFL Premiership Matches in the Territory: two in Darwin and one in Alice Springs, and the marquee NAB AFLW Dreamtime Game. The Gold Coast SUNS v Hawthorn game in Darwin saw a record sold-out event, and the NAB AFLW Dreamtime Game again lit up TIO Stadium. I want to thank Major Events and the Northern Territory Chief Minister and Cabinet for their support in making these games happen.

In the TIO NTFL, the quality of football and the number of teams and players again grew. The NTFL has seen extraordinary year-on-year growth over the last decade.

Female players are soon to equal the number of male players in the NTFL, an indicator of the love of the game in the Territory and the deep social connectivity that football brings to communities, families, and individuals. At the heart of this connectivity are our Clubs, and I thank every President, Committee Member, and Volunteer for their contribution.

Every one of the 90 or so NTFL games that are played across each weekend has a Coach in charge of one of the 2 teams playing for premierships points and this person carries the expectations of their club including the players, the parents and fans. The Coaches are at the front-line of the growth and success of our leagues, and like the Committees and volunteers understand that this extraordinary growth, has brought growing pains. I acknowledge everyone who has shouldered the role of Coach and thank you for your service to your players, your club and the league.

During a round, 90 games of football are scheduled around Darwin, and it remains evident that we do not have enough playing fields, or lights, or change rooms, or capacity - our match day facilities are not equal to those enjoyed by other Australians elsewhere in the country, and places pressure on our competitions.

This infrastructure deficit is amplified in Katherine, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs, and the further you travel from Darwin into remote and regional communities, the greater the deficit becomes. Local Government Councils play a crucial role in preparing and caring for our playing field, and the Mayors and Councillors are valuable partners to our game, and with these councils and the Northern Territory government we are committed to building a Territory-wide infrastructure plan that ensures football can continue to grow.

Bringing our facilities up to standard, increasing lights at ovals so more games can be played in cooler conditions, and managing critical issues such as heat stress, player injury, and concussion are issues that will remain at the top of the agenda for AFLNT going forward.

We know that a Territory Team is an ambition that lies close to the hearts of Territory football people, and we all know the transformational power of football in our community. AFLNT watches with great interest and anticipation the developments around the Territory's pitch for an AFL and AFLW licence. Acknowledging there is a lot of work to be done, and a licence for the Territory is a longer term ambition, the football community's support in the continued growth of the game will provide the groundswell that would be of great benefit if we were awarded a licence in the future.

The Territory is the best place in the nation. Our football has inspired the nation, let's keep believing in who we are and the great days that lie ahead of us on the footy field.

SEAN BOWDEN
CHAIRMAN

	NTFL Teams	Registered Players	Registered Umpires
22/23	149	4170	216
25/26	183	5418	475

HEAD OF AFL NORTHERN TERRITORY REPORT

The 2024/25 year has been one of consolidation, momentum and continued impact for football across the Northern Territory. Our game remains deeply embedded in the fabric of Territory life, connecting communities, creating opportunity and inspiring the next generation. It is a privilege to lead an organisation that plays such an important role in the social and sporting landscape of the Northern Territory.

At the heart of our work is opportunity - particularly for young Territorians striving to realise their potential. Throughout the year, our talent and pathway programs continued to evolve, providing clearer and more structured development environments for emerging players. Territory representatives once again competed proudly on the national stage, demonstrating the strength and resilience that defines NT football. The continued growth of the Michael Long Cup, alongside strengthened academy programs in both Darwin and Central Australia, reflects our commitment to ensuring that geography is not a barrier to progression. It's an area that needs continued focus and one that we're committed to advancing.

Our Indigenous Programs continue to be a flagship of AFLNT's impact. Football remains a powerful vehicle for engagement in remote communities, delivering meaningful social, educational, and well-being outcomes. Through sustained partnerships and strong local relationships, we have maintained extensive community reach across remote regions. We are grateful for the ongoing support of the National Indigenous Australians Agency and the Australian Sports Commission in delivering this vital work.

In 2024/25 our work in this space coincided with the expansion of the Make Your Mark Program. For the first time, the highly successful MLLLC camp-based program was delivered in conjunction with program delivery within remote schools. The continued backing of the program by the NT Government and our corporate partners will only see the impact of this program grow into the future.

Our marquee events once again showcased the Territory on the national stage. Major fixtures in Darwin and Alice Springs delivered strong crowds- including a sell-out crowd of 12,314 at TIO Stadium for the game between the Gold Coast SUNS and Hawthorn - these events bring significant economic impact and valuable exposure for the NT.

Another highlight during the year was the second NAB AFLW Dreamtime fixture in Darwin between Essendon and Richmond. Drawing the sixth-highest AFLW crowd of the year (including finals), the game was a fantastic celebration of both culture and the immense role women play in Territory footy. We look forward to the fixture growing into the future.

Digital engagement, media and broadcast reach continued to grow exponentially, expanding the visibility of Territory football beyond our borders. Enhanced streaming coverage, increased social engagement and strong media partnerships have ensured that NT football stories are being told more widely than ever before. This growing digital footprint is critical to building profile, attracting partners and celebrating the uniqueness of NT footy, the achievements of our players, clubs and communities.

Community football remains the foundation of our success. Our clubs, umpires, coaches and volunteers continue to demonstrate extraordinary passion and commitment. Our pinnacle competition, the TIO NTL, again lived up to its growing national reputation, culminating in thrilling Premier League Grand Final wins to St Mary's in the women's and Southern Districts in the men's. With strong plans in place across community football, including competitive balance, club sustainability, umpire development and regional growth, the future of the game at a local level is in a strong position.

Participation growth remains one of the strongest indicators of the health of our game and 2024/25 was again a year of growth. Across key areas such as community football, Auskick and AFL Nines, we have seen encouraging engagement from players of all ages and backgrounds. Female participation continues to trend positively, with around 40% of all registrations, reinforcing our commitment to equity and inclusion. Our school engagement programs also remain critical, introducing thousands of young Territorians to football each year and strengthening our connection with communities across the Territory.

None of this progress would be possible without the dedication of our volunteers, staff, players, coaches, and administrators. Every weekend, across every corner of the NT, football comes to life because of their commitment. I thank our Board for their leadership and guidance, our partners - including Premier Partners Cazalys Palmerston Club, TIO, MACCC - as well as both the Australian and Northern Territory Governments for their continued support. I also acknowledge the AFL for its leadership and commitment to the growth of the game in the Territory. Finally, I would like to thank AFLNT's staff who drive the game forward tirelessly.

Looking ahead, our focus is clear. We will continue strengthening pathways, investing in community football, advocating for infrastructure improvements and deepening our Indigenous engagement. With strong foundations in place and a united football community behind us, we are well-positioned to build on our momentum.

Football in the Northern Territory is more than a game - it is a source of pride, passion and opportunity. Together, we will continue to grow and protect this great game for future generations.



SAM GIBSON
HEAD OF AFL NORTHERN TERRITORY



**WITH STRONG FOUNDATIONS – WE ARE WELL
POSITIONED TO BUILD MOMENTUM**



2023-24
MEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE
CHAMPIONS

TIO
We Terr...

TIO STADIUM ON MAR 15 2025 IN DARWIN, AUSTRALIA.
(PHOTO BY PATCH CLAPP /AFLNT MEDIA)

BOARD



Mr Sean Bowden
Chairman



Mr Rob Auld



Mr Lincoln Jenkin



Ms Kathleen Cole



Mr Thomas Wilcox

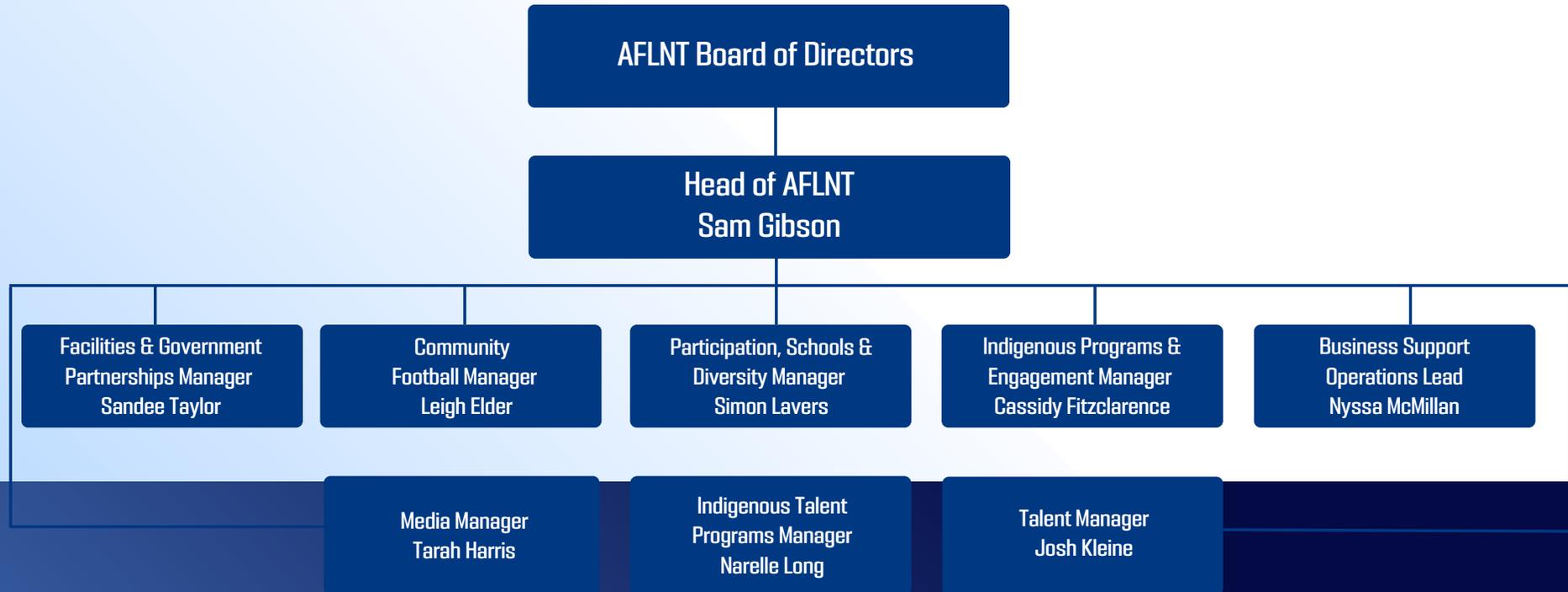


Dr Josie Douglas
(PhD)



Mr Tony Fuller

EXECUTIVE



TIO STADIUM ON MAY 15, 2025 IN DARWIN, AUSTRALIA.
(PHOTO BY JAMES WILTSHIRE/AFL PHOTOS)



2024-25 GAME PLAN

VISION: FOR EVERYONE TO LOVE AND CONNECT WITH AUSTRALIA'S GAME



- Deliver thrilling competitions that maximise the unique characteristics of NT footy
- Drive an ecosystem that enables all clubs to thrive and see their next success
- Keep supporting our heartland, including coaches, umpires and volunteers
- Secure our future by winning in the schoolyards and backyards
- Cultivate our pathways, providing opportunities for NT Talent to shine



- Attract and retain great people from a variety of backgrounds that reflect the NT community
- Foster a supportive, collaborative and inclusive team environment
- Drive success through empowerment, respectful engagement and meaningful relationships
- Celebrate our successes

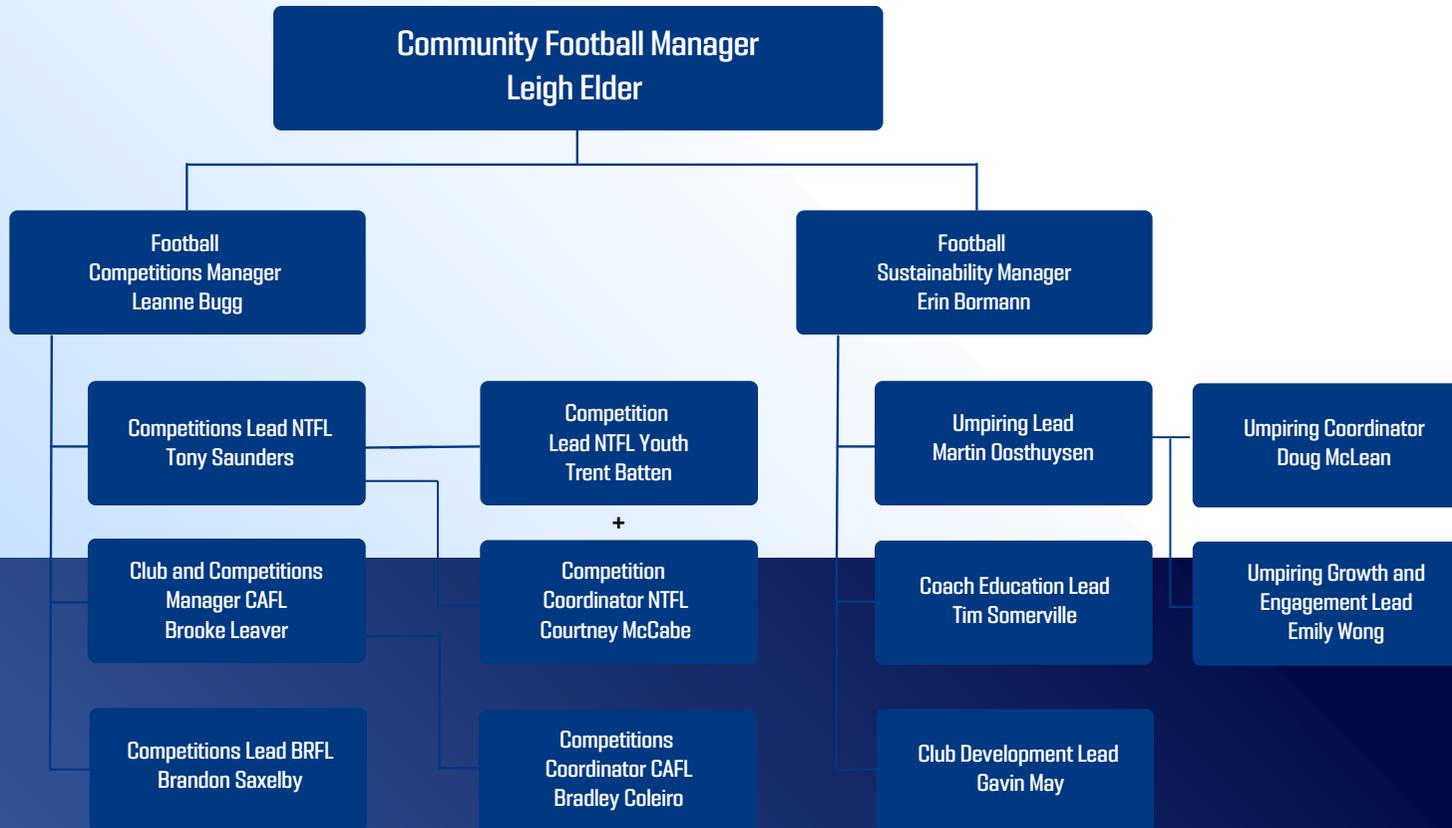


- Deliver more inclusive and cohesive environments so it's a safer game for all
- Meaningful partnerships that support our community and drive our game
- Be social leaders, using our game to positively influence a variety of outcomes
- Understand our community so we can meet specific needs
- Keep footy affordable and accessible to all communities



- Enable the growth of the game through a network of fit for purpose, well managed venues
- Win the hearts and minds of the NT's culturally diverse communities
- Leverage our enviable funding mix to support growth
- Continue to drive women and girls involvement in all areas of our game
- Explore new frontiers and drive new initiatives to secure our future

COMMUNITY FOOTBALL



NORTHERN TERRITORY FOOTBALL LEAGUE

The 2024/25 TIO NTFL season ran from 4 October 2024 to 15 March 2025, with clubs competing across four men's senior divisions and three women's senior divisions.

Participation remained strong, supported by a growing number of interstate athletes who view the TIO NTFL as a destination during the southern off-season.

A season highlight was the NAB AFLW Indigenous Round match hosted in Darwin, with Essendon and Richmond facing off in Round 4 at TIO Stadium. The match was preceded by a Women's Premier League curtain-raiser between the Tiwi Bombers and Darwin Buffaloes, providing Territory athletes the opportunity to perform for a national NAB AFLW audience.

Clubs and the league delivered a range of community engagement initiatives, including an expanded Indigenous Round and the league's first-ever Pride matches—PINT versus Waratah in the Premier League, and Jabiru versus Waratah in Division 2. These initiatives supported inclusive participation and the growth of women's football.

Men's Premier League Reserves

Banks secured the premiership following a consistent season.

Men's Division One

Jabiru completed an undefeated season and defeated Banks in the Grand Final to secure the premiership.

Men's Division Two

Waratah claimed the premiership with a 10.8 (68) to 8.5 (53) victory over Southern Districts in the Grand Final.

Junior Football

Junior competitions continued to expand during the 2024/25 TIO NTFL season, with growth in both team numbers and participant registrations across multiple age groups. Clubs increased their junior program offerings, maintaining a focus on inclusive, development-focused environments.

Across Under 12 to Under 18 competitions, junior leagues provided structured and competitive playing opportunities that supported athlete development and long-term retention. The increase in team numbers strengthened weekly match programs and broadened the overall participation base.

The growth of junior competitions during the 2024/25 season contributes to the long-term sustainability of NTFL clubs and supports the development of the next generation of Territory football participants, volunteers, and community leaders.

The 2024/25 NTFL Junior Club of the Year award was presented to Wanderers Football Club in recognition of its contribution to junior football delivery, development programs, and sustained engagement across multiple age groups.

Men's Premier League

Southern Districts finished the home-and-away season as minor premiers with a 15-1 record. St Mary's finished fifth but progressed through the elimination, semi-final, and preliminary finals to reach the Grand Final.

In the Grand Final at TIO Stadium, Southern Districts defeated St Mary's 9.12 (66) to 8.3 (51) to claim their fourth Premier League premiership. The match remained competitive throughout, with Southern Districts managing key phases effectively. Wyatt Ryan received the TIO Chaney Medal for best on ground following a strong ruck performance.

Women's Premier League

The Women's Premier League continued to grow in both depth and quality. PINT finished the home-and-away season as minor premiers, while St Mary's and Nightcliff advanced to the Grand Final through strong finals performances.

St Mary's won the premiership with a 3.5 (23) to 2.10 (22) victory at TIO Stadium. The one-point margin reflected the competitiveness of the contest.

This win marked St Mary's sixth Women's Premier League title and their first since the 2009/10 season. Shakaila Gardiner Dunn kicked all three goals for St Mary's and was named best on ground.

Women's Division One

Tracy Village won the premiership with a one-point victory over Nightcliff in the Grand Final.

Women's Division Two

Nightcliff secured the premiership with a 5.2 (32) to 1.0 (6) victory over Jabiru in the Grand Final.

These results reflected continued growth in women's football and the expansion of capability across multiple clubs.

THE TIO NTFL CONTINUES TO GROW
AS A DESTINATION COMPETITION





Nichols Medal - Men's Premier League

Brodie Filo of Nightcliff was awarded the 2024/25 Nichols Medal for the Men's Premier League after polling 21 votes. This is Filo's third Nichols Medal, following wins in the 2015/16 and 2019/20 seasons.

Across the season, Filo maintained a high level of performance as a midfielder and key distributor. His influence in contests, ball movement, and decision-making contributed significantly to Nightcliff's overall season performance. Filo's third Nichols Medal places him among the most decorated players in TIO NTFL history.

Jasmyn Hewett - Women's Premier League

Jasmyn Hewett of PINT received the 2024/25 Nichols Medal for the Women's Premier League after polling 31 votes. This marks her third league best and fairest award and makes her the first female athlete to win three Nichols Medals in the Women's Premier League.

Throughout the season, Hewett combined her playing role with coaching responsibilities, providing leadership and impact across the field. Her consistent performance, ability to influence stoppages, and link play between defence and attack were key features of her season. Her achievement reflects a long-term contribution to women's football in the Northern Territory.

Additional Awards

Leading Goal Kickers

- Men's Premier League: Jackson Calder, St Mary's - 56 goals
- Women's Premier League: Cassie McWilliam, Nightcliff - 36 goals

NT News Rising Stars

- Men's Rising Star: Sean Hunter, Nightcliff
- Women's Rising Star: Shakaila Gardiner Dunn, St Mary's

Additional Grade Honours

- Mitch Lee Medal - Men's Reserves Best and Fairest: Jaise Coleman, Nightcliff
- Lancaster Medal - Men's Division One Best and Fairest: Liam Read, Jabiru
- Men's Division One Leading Goal Kicker: Aidan McAdam, Jabiru
- Men's Premier League Reserves Leading Goal Kicker: Matthew Bricknell, Banks
- Women's Division Two Best and Fairest: Sasha Byrnes, Jabiru

Club of the Year

The NTFL Club of the Year was awarded to the Jabiru Bombers.

TIO TRAEGER PARK ON JUNE 1, 2025 IN ALICE SPRINGS, AUSTRALIA. (PHOTO BY MICHAEL WILLSON/AFL PHOTOS)





CENTRAL AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE

The 2025 CAFL season showcased strong competition across both men's and women's divisions, with clubs demonstrating depth, consistency, and emerging talent throughout the year.

Senior Men's Premiers: Federal

Federal completed an undefeated season, claiming both the Minor Premiership and the Senior Men's Premiership. The team's consistent performances across all rounds underpinned a dominant campaign and a clean sweep of the season.

Senior Men's Runners-Up: Pioneer

Pioneer finished as runners-up after advancing to the Grand Final. The club recorded strong results throughout the season, with a combination of experienced players and emerging talent contributing to its finals campaign.

Senior Women's Premiers: Rovers

Rovers claimed the Senior Women's Premiership, building on a season of consistent performances across all grades. The club continues to demonstrate depth and capability in the women's competition.

Senior Women's Runners-Up: Federal

Federal reached the Senior Women's Grand Final in their first appearance, with four of the club's grades participating in finals. The club's performance highlights the growth and development of women's football within the CAFL.

Grade	Minor Premiers	Grand Final Winner	Runner Up
Senior Men	Federal	Federal	Pioneer
Senior Women	West	Rovers	Federal
Reserve Men's	Federal	Federal	West
18s Males	Pioneer	South	Federal
17s Females	South	South	Pioneer
15s Males	South	Rovers	South
Community	Ntaria	Laramba	Ntaria

CENTRAL AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Individual Award Winners

Minahan Medal (Best & Fairest):
Abraham Ankers (Federal Football Club)

The 2025 Minahan Medal was Abraham's fourth, further solidifying his place among the competition's most decorated players.

Senior Women's Best & Fairest:
Alana Chalmers (Federal Football Club)

Reliable and consistent in the midfield, Alana was instrumental in getting Federal to their first Senior Women's grand final.

Looking Ahead

Growth is the focus for the CAFL moving forward. With the continuation of the under 10s and under 13s game development program we should see significant growth in our junior pathways over the next 2-4 years. Increased buy in from clubs will be vital in enabling growth.

The Central Australian Football League is in a good position and with an AFLNT wide focus on women and girls there is opportunity for the women's competition to expand alongside the junior pathway.

Additional Award Winners

- Volunteer of the Year Harrison Trophy: Grant Souter - Rovers Football Club
- Club of the Year: West Football Club
- CAFL Umpire of the Year: Asher Lennie
- Kev Prior Men's Rising Star: Mackiah Jones - Mount Allan/Pioneer Football Club
- Female Rising Star: Telayla Turner - South Football Club
- Reserve Men's Best and Fairest Patron's Medallist: Jonathon Fernando, 12 votes - Federal Football Club (4th Win)
- Reserve Men's Leading Goal Kicker: Arnold Woodbury, South Football Club
- Under 18s Males Best and Fairest: Muldoon Medallist Fletcha Murphy
- Club Under 18s Males Leading Goal Kicker: Brodie Haines & Fletcha Murphy
- Under 17s Females Best and Fairest: Latoya Young, 27 votes - South Alice Springs Football Club
- Under 17s Females Leading Goal Kicker: Talayah Kunoth, 54 goals - South Alice Springs Football Club
- Under 15s Males Best and Fairest: Dillon Thomas Van Der Geest-Hester - Rovers Football Club
- Under 15s Males Leading Goal Kicker: Nicky Alice - South Football Club
- Community Senior Men's Best and Fairest: Williams/ Pareroutlja Medallist Marcus McDonald - Papunya
- Community Senior Men's Leading Goal Kicker: Horton Wilson - Ti Tree

Senior Men's Leading Goal Kicker:
Wesley Steele (Pioneer Football Club)

Consistently strong overhead, Steele delivered in front of the big sticks with 39 goals in 11 games.

Senior Women's Leading Goal Kicker:
Regan Maher-Moldrich (Alkamilya Football Club)

Still a teenager, Maher-Moldrich is already taking the senior competition by storm. Regan booted 33 goals in 15 games to set the gold standard for the Senior Women's Comp.







**CLUBS, COMMUNITIES, AND SPONSORS DROVE
GROWTH AND SUCCESS THIS SEASON.**

BIG RIVERS FOOTBALL LEAGUE

The 2025 BRFL season highlighted the league's strong connection to community football across the Northern Territory, spanning locations from Borroloola in the east to the Tanami Desert in the west. Participating communities included Lajamanu, Kalkarindji, Barunga, Timber Creek, Borroloola, and Ngukurr.

The season saw the entry of new teams in Borroloola, Ngaliwurru, and Katherine River into the Senior Men's division. Matches were played across a range of venues, including Tindal Oval, Barunga Oval, Michael Jarparta Paddy Oval in Kalkarindji, Lajamanu Oval, Kalano Oval, and Katherine High School.

Sponsors continued their support, with Katherine West Health Board delivering themed rounds for the Tackling Indigenous Smoking program and the NO MORE campaign, and SunCable maintaining its ongoing partnership with the league.

The season concluded on 6 September at the Showgrounds in Katherine. The Arnhem Crows secured the Senior Women's premiership, achieving a three-peat, while the Katherine Camels claimed the Senior Men's premiership for the second consecutive season.

The successful season reflected the combined efforts of clubs, communities, sponsors, and staff, and highlighted the resilience and growth of the BRFL, setting a strong foundation for 2026 and beyond.

Award Winners

Doug Kelly Medal (Senior Men's): Daniel Vercoe (Katherine Camels)

Senior Men's Leading Goal Kicker: Daniel Vercoe (Katherine Camels)

Women's Best and Fairest: Ashanti Bush (Arnhem Crows)

Senior Women's Leading Goal Kicker: Lynelle Ah Fat (Arnhem Crows)

Morris Medal (Senior Men's Best On Ground): Kurtley Silver (Ngukurr Bulldogs)

Senior Women's Best on Ground: Lynelle Ah Fat (Arnhem Crows)

Umpire of the Year: Michael Wellington

Junior Umpire of the Year: Finley Lovering

Volunteer of the Year: Madison Hohn

Club of the Year: Arnhem Crows

BARKLY FOOTBALL LEAGUE

The Barkly Australian Football League (BAFL) celebrated its 35th season in 2025, marking a significant milestone in the league's history. The season reflected ongoing growth, strong community engagement, and a continued commitment to delivering competitive and inclusive Australian Rules football across the Barkly region.

The 2025 season featured 740 registered participants across 19 teams, competing in Senior Men's A Grade, Senior Women's A Grade, and Senior Men's Division 2, which was contested for the second year.

The development of Senior Men's Division 2 provided expanded participation opportunities and strengthened the league's overall depth. A key addition this year was Murray Downs Football Club, who entered their Imangara Senior Men's team into the Division 2 competition, contributing positively to the competitiveness and growth of the division.

The Senior Women's A Grade competition continued to demonstrate the strength and consistency of women's football in the Barkly. Sporties Spitfires claimed their third consecutive premiership, defeating Elliott Hawkettes 7.7 (49) to 4.2 (26) in a repeat grand final matchup.

The match highlighted the high standard of football and the ongoing rivalry that continues to elevate the women's competition.

Senior Men's A Grade Competition

The Senior Men's A Grade competition delivered a highly competitive season, with clubs demonstrating consistent performance and depth across the year.

YDU Football Club and Elliott Hawks earned their places in the Grand Final following disciplined and successful home-and-away campaigns.

Looking Ahead:

Season 35 reinforced the BAFL's role as a cornerstone of sport and community engagement across the Barkly region. With strong participation numbers, expanding competitions, and continued club development, the league is well positioned to build on this progress in future seasons.

The Barkly Australian Football League acknowledges and thanks all players, clubs, volunteers, officials, and supporters whose contributions made the 2025 season a success.

**SEASON 35 SHOWCASED STRONG PARTICIPATION,
EXPANDING COMPETITIONS, AND WOMENS SUCCESS.**







REGISTERED UMPIRES GREW SIGNIFICANTLY, WITH PATHWAYS SUPPORTING FUTURE TERRITORY TALENT.

UMPIRING

In 2025, AFLNT umpiring built on the approach that delivered strong results in 2024, achieving significant year-on-year growth across all key metrics. This progress reflects the systems now in place—repeatable, scalable, and generating momentum across the Territory.

Total registered umpires increased from 261 to 356, a 36.4% rise, with 122 new umpires joining 234 returning participants. Retention remained high at 89.7%, once again exceeding the national average of 65%. These results highlight a program that is stable and reliable, supported by clearer pathways, structured coaching, and mentoring, encouraging umpires to remain engaged.

A strong pipeline is critical for long-term sustainability. In 2025, the under-16 cohort grew from 54 to 78 (+44.4%), while women and girls' participation increased from 51 to 80 (+56.9%). Participation among under-16 females grew by 90%, strengthening the pathway at a key stage for retention, confidence, and a sense of belonging. These gains demonstrate that the junior umpire program is well supported, effectively coached, and delivering growth in cohorts that are vital for the future of umpiring in the Territory.

The NTFL continues to provide a unique development environment for local and national talent. The competition's intensity, match volume, and varied game contexts support umpire development in decision-making, movement, match management, and composure under pressure.

Umpires benefit most when developed as athletes and supported through consistent coaching, with the Visiting Umpire Program remaining essential. Visiting umpires provide stability during peak periods and contribute valuable coaching, mentoring, and cross-border experience to developing Territory umpires.

Feedback from the 2025 National Umpire Survey reflects these improvements. The Net Promoter Score, which measures the likelihood of umpires recommending the role to others, increased, with 82% of respondents indicating they intend to continue umpiring. Training, coaching, mentorship, and match-day experiences were all rated positively, highlighting the strong environment now established for umpires across the Northern Territory.

The Umpire of the Year awards represent the highest recognition for umpiring excellence across AFLNT competitions.

Congratulations to the 2025 recipients:

- NTFL 2024/25: Jacob Port
- BRFL 2025: Michael Wellington
- CAFL 2025: Asher Lennie
- Junior Umpire of the Year: Mica MacDonald (NTFL), Finn Lovering (BRFL), Joel Connel (CAFL)

CLUB DEVELOPMENT AND COACHING EDUCATION

In 2024/25, AFL Northern Territory continued to strengthen football clubs and coaching across the region, with a clear focus on building sustainable, capable, and inclusive community football environments. The department worked closely with clubs in metropolitan, regional, and remote areas, providing tailored support in governance, operational guidance, funding, and structured education programs designed to meet local needs. This approach ensured clubs were equipped not only to meet competition requirements but to thrive as community organisations that deliver positive experiences for players, volunteers, and families.

Key initiatives included the NTFL Leaders Forum and the NTFL Junior Pre-Season Workshop. The Leaders Forum provided practical development opportunities for club leaders, focusing on governance, financial sustainability, leadership accountability, and embedding inclusive, values-driven cultures. The Junior Pre-Season Workshop supported clubs to enhance junior football environments, with an emphasis on safeguarding, volunteer readiness, and creating positive experiences for young athletes. Both programs encouraged collaboration, shared problem-solving, and consistency across clubs, strengthening engagement and capability throughout the Territory.

Coach education expanded significantly in 2025, reflecting a Territory-wide commitment to developing capable, confident, and community-minded coaches. Programs placed particular emphasis on Women and Girls coaching, with retention and participation increasing as targeted initiatives took hold.

Northern Territory coaches were also represented in national development programs, including eight female coaches who participated in the NAB AFL Women's She Can Coach experience, gaining pre-game, in-game, and post-game exposure to elite coaching environments. Regional and remote coaches were supported in communities across the Territory, from Wadeye in the west to Nhulunbuy in the east and Ti Tree in the centre, ensuring meaningful, on-the-ground development opportunities reached even the most isolated areas.

Accreditation remained a key focus, with coaches supported to achieve formal qualifications, contributing to consistent professional standards across competitions. Pathways for emerging and elite coaches continued to strengthen, with opportunities such as representative football programs and access to AFL captain's runs providing exposure to elite performance environments.

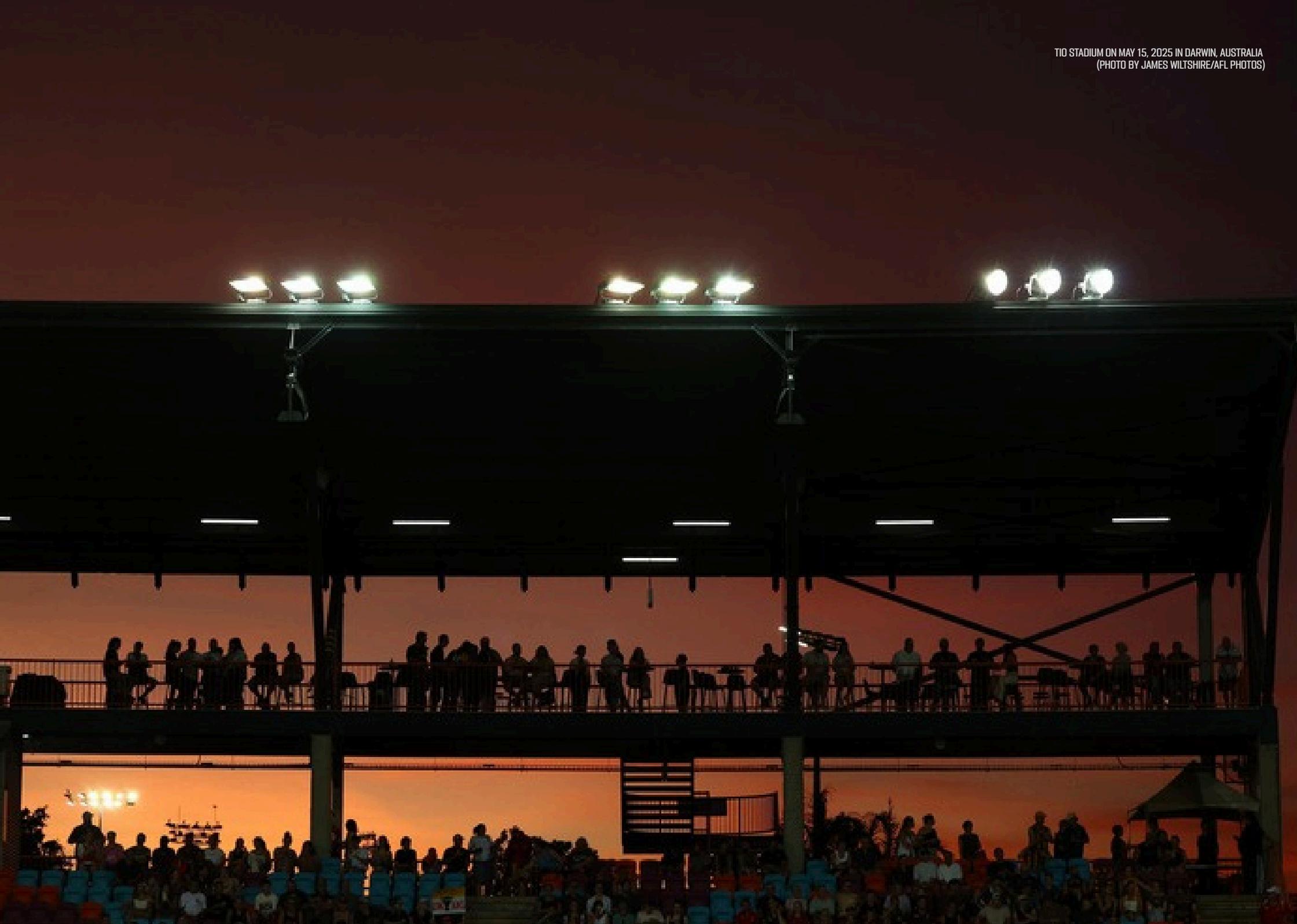
Junior coaching education also saw continued growth, with the refinement of the Coach Development Program supporting foundational coaching skills, improving learning experiences for all participants, and helping clubs deliver positive, development-focused environments.

Across all activities, AFL Northern Territory emphasised inclusive and safe club environments. Clubs received guidance on member welfare, complaints awareness, respectful behaviours, and integrity education, ensuring that football clubs remain trusted community hubs that reflect the values of the communities they serve. Regular engagement, pre-season visits, workshops, and in-season support helped clubs prepare for the year, respond to emerging challenges, and embed long-term governance and operational practices.

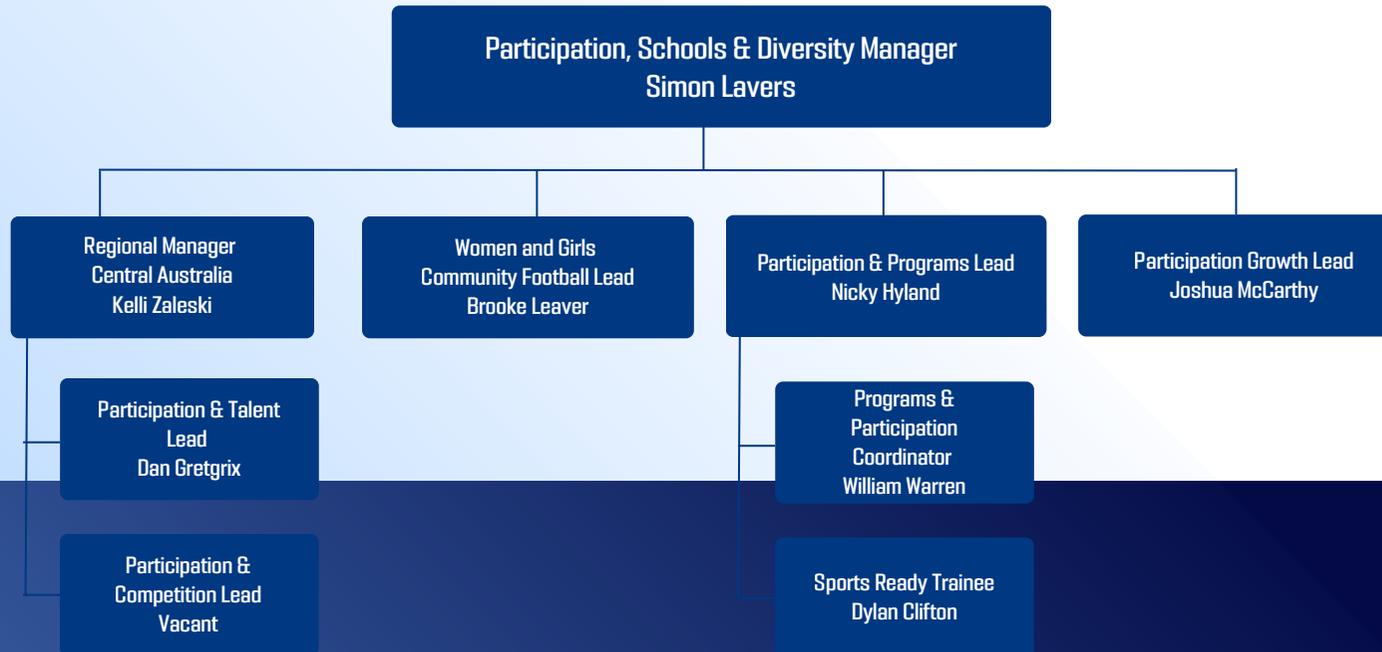
Looking ahead, AFL Northern Territory will continue to invest in club and coach development to ensure football across the Territory is high-performing, inclusive, and sustainable. By strengthening governance, pathways, and capability, the department will support clubs and coaches to thrive, reinforcing the Territory's unique football culture and building a resilient foundation for future seasons.



**INVESTING IN COACHES AND CLUBS ENSURES
HIGH PERFORMING, INCLUSIVE FOOTBALL CULTURE.**



PARTICIPATION





**TERRITORY FOOTBALL ACHIEVED RECORD PARTICIPATION,
INCLUSION, AND GROWTH ACROSS ALL PATHWAYS.**

PARTICIPATION

The 2025 season marked an outstanding year for football participation across the Northern Territory, with strong growth, meaningful partnerships and continued momentum across all participation pathways.

Across the year, AFLNT delivered 18,991 registered participants, exceeding our participation target. This achievement reflects the Territory's strong appetite for football and the ongoing commitment of schools, clubs, partners and communities to creating accessible opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to engage with the game.

Strong Foundations and Program Growth

Foundation programs continued to underpin participation success across the Territory. Auskick participation increased by 5%, reinforcing its role as the primary entry point for children and families. These programs remain critical in building early connections to football, strengthening family engagement and supporting long-term retention across the participation pathway.

Superkick participation remained strong, providing an effective transition between Auskick and junior competition, while Community Football participation increased by 6%, demonstrating ongoing demand for structured local competition across both urban and regional areas.

Dry Season Competitions and AFL Nines

The continued development of dry season competition formats remained a major focus for AFLNT in 2025. AFL Nines participation remained stable, with 531 participants, despite seasonal and logistical challenges that are unique to the Northern Territory. Importantly, the format continued to be a powerful engagement tool for Women and Girls, who represented more than 70% of all Nines participants.

This confirms the value of flexible competition formats that respond to climate, community needs and lifestyle, while broadening participation opportunities beyond our traditional wet season.

Looking Ahead

Collectively, the 2025 participation outcomes highlight a strong, stable and growing football environment across the Northern Territory. Relative to population size, the Territory continues to outperform, driven by community commitment, flexible program delivery and strong partnerships.

Women and Girls Participation

The continued growth of Women and Girls participation was a standout highlight of the 2025 season. Across all programs, 6,317 women and girls participated, representing one of the strongest participation outcomes to date and reinforcing progress against the NT Women & Girls Action Plan.

Growth was particularly evident in entry-level and modified programs, supporting early engagement and improved retention. These results align strongly with national participation priorities and position the Northern Territory as a leader in creating inclusive pathways for women and girls in football.

Schools: Our Foundation of Participation

Schools remained a foundation of AFLNT's reach and impact in 2025. Throughout the year, 14,867 students engaged in AFL programs across the Territory, spanning urban, regional and remote locations.

In addition, AFLNT successfully delivered Primary, Middle and High School competitions, with more than 1,000 students participating during the Dry Season. These competitions continue to play a vital role in developing confidence and enjoyment, while strengthening the transition from school programs into club and community football.

A Historic Year for Inclusion

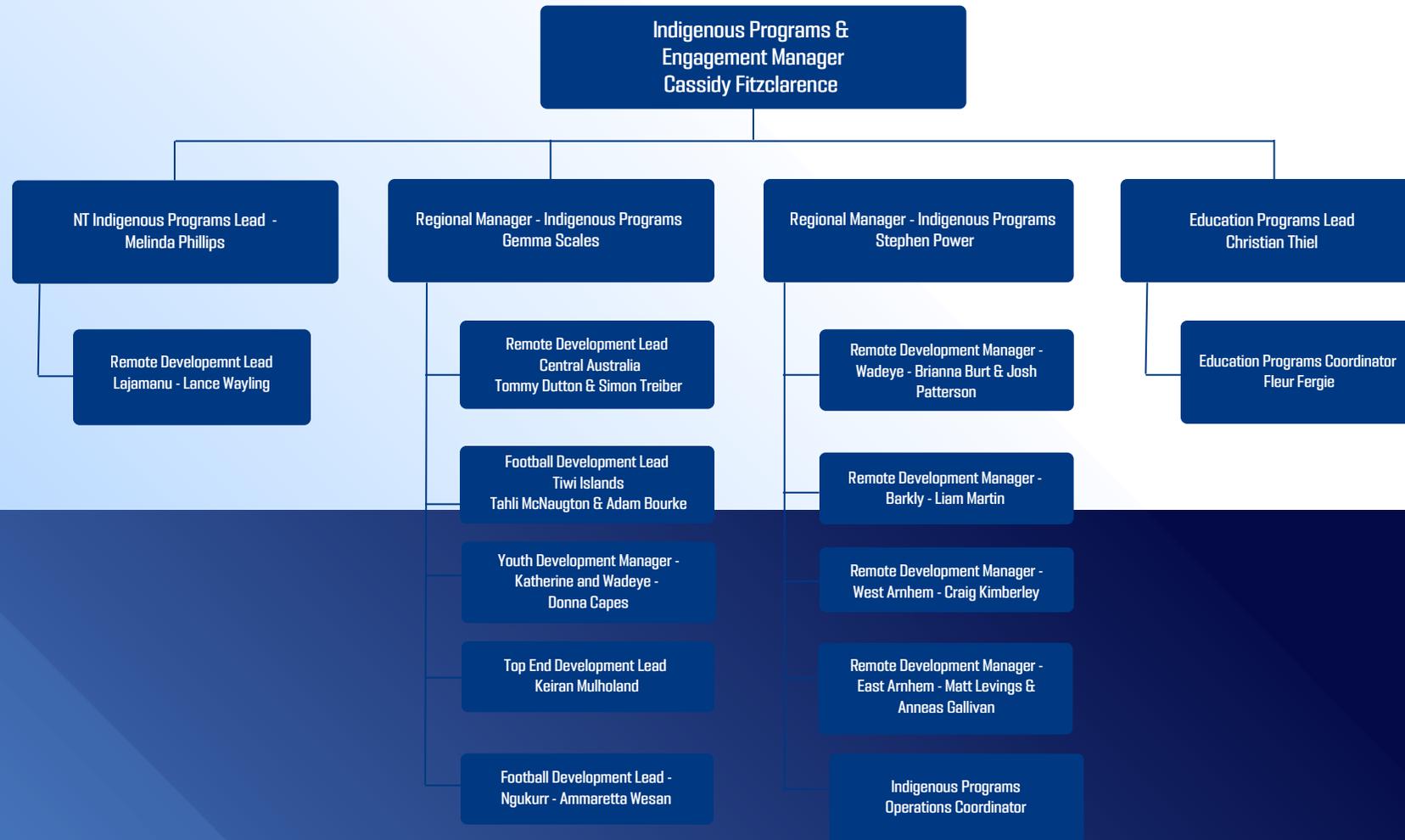
The 2025 season will also be remembered for an unforgettable moment in Territory football history. The Northern Territory Inclusion Team claimed the Division 2 Toyota AFL Open Premiership, defeating Western Australia by one point in a thrilling Grand Final at La Trobe University, Melbourne.

The 7.4 (46) to 7.3 (45) victory, sealed by a match-winning goal in the final seconds, showcased the resilience, belief and talent of athletes with intellectual disability. The premiership capped a remarkable carnival, with the NT rebounding from a challenging start to record crucial mid-week wins and progress to the decider. It was a powerful moment for inclusion, pride and Territory football.



AFL PLAY | **TOYOTA**
AFL OPEN
INCLUSION
PREMIERS
2025 Division 2

INDIGENOUS PROGRAMS



INDIGENOUS PROGRAMS

Throughout 2025, the AFLNT Indigenous Programs team delivered extensive football programs across the Northern Territory, supported by a mix of government and non-government partners. The primary program partners were the Australian Sports Commission (ASC) and the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA).

This year marked the final year of the dual agency funding model for Women and Girls and Youth at Risk AFL programs across the Territory. The support provided by these agencies enabled AFLNT to maintain full-time staff positions within First Nations communities in all regions.

For the first time, the Indigenous Programs team had staff based across both the Barkly and Big Rivers regions. The Barkly project commenced early in 2025, providing services throughout Tennant Creek and surrounding remote communities. A new project was also established in Ngukurr, the first since 2015, responding to community demand for additional support for local programs and broader regional AFL activities.

In total, the Indigenous Programs team comprised 15 full-time, community-based staff, supported by 11 local casual staff. The casual team, made up of local male and female First Nations staff, played a critical role in delivering programs, managing competitions, and maintaining community connections.

In May, AFLNT hosted a staff conference in Darwin for the casual team, providing professional development through formal learning modules, leadership sessions, and opportunities to strengthen networks across the regions.

Over the course of 2025, the Indigenous Programs team delivered more than 500 programs, engaging 17,827 participants through AFL competitions, development programs, and school-based activities. This included 5,569 participants in senior football (+4% growth), 4,753 in youth football, 2,186 in Auskick (+10% growth), 5,047 in school programs, and 272 in coach and umpire development (+46% growth). Throughout the year, the team worked closely with 189 unique program partners to deliver programs and ensure community engagement across the Territory.

Throughout 2025 the AFLNT Indigenous Programs team commenced an updated three-year funded program in Lajamanu through the Granites Gold Mine Aboriginal Affected Areas committee (GMAAAC). This program will expand on the great work delivered throughout Lajamanu in previous years and will support the Northern Walpiri football team to compete in the BRFL. A further three years of program support has also been secured for the Groote Eylandt project with local Aboriginal corporation GEAT (Groote Eylandt Aboriginal Trust). This will support the recommencement of the Groote Eylandt AFL program in over 18 months.

Looking ahead to 2026 there are some exciting opportunities on the horizon including the introduction of new program offerings and focus areas along with further project locations to be serviced.

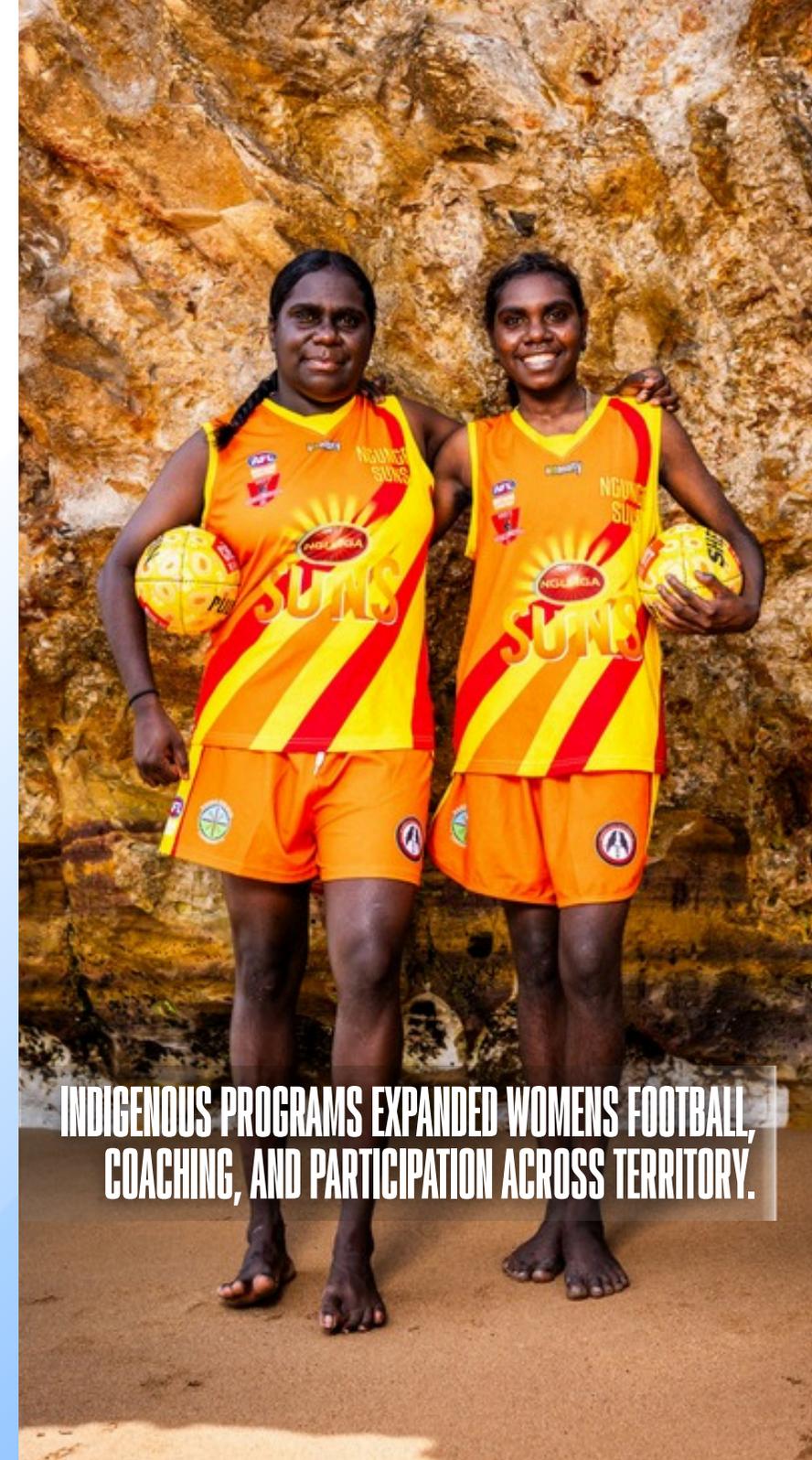
A key focus for the Indigenous Programs team in 2025 was embedding opportunities for First Nations women and girls to play Australian Rules football across all regions of the Northern Territory. The team supported this by expanding structured AFL competitions, carnivals, and entry-level participation opportunities.

Highlights included the commencement of consistent women's training and matches in Wadeye, culminating in their first participation in the Barunga Festival competition. Central Australia also saw significant growth, with the first women's competition in the Tanami Football League and the first women's AFL season in the Ti Tree Football League. The women's AFL 9's 'Kungas Carnival' was hosted at Yulara in collaboration with the NPY Women's Council, further broadening on-field opportunities.

Off-field development for women and girls was equally prioritised. The 'Leading the Play' program, introduced in 2025 to coincide with NAB AFLW Dreamtime in Darwin, brought together First Nations women from the Top End—including the Tiwi Islands, Wadeye, Gove, Ngukurr, and Maningrida - for a week of leadership and capacity-building activities. Participants engaged in AFL coaching and umpire development, leadership sessions, and workshops with AFL players from Essendon and Richmond. The program fostered confidence, knowledge sharing, and practical skills that will support the ongoing growth of First Nations football across the Territory.

Umpire and coach development in remote communities was another priority. In 2025, participation in coaching and umpiring programs grew by 46%, reflecting a targeted effort to build capability across regions. The umpire mentoring program, for example, paired experienced NTLF umpires from Darwin with local umpires on the Tiwi Islands, providing coaching, match-day mentoring, and feedback throughout the dry season Tiwi Islands Football League competition. Tiwi umpires were then invited to train with the NTLF umpire group and officiate matches in the 2025/26 season.

Similar opportunities were extended to other First Nations umpires from across the Territory, supported by the Indigenous Programs team to enhance skills and confidence.



**INDIGENOUS PROGRAMS EXPANDED WOMENS FOOTBALL,
COACHING, AND PARTICIPATION ACROSS TERRITORY.**





PROGRAMS CONNECTED STUDENTS WITH ROLE MODELS, AFL EXPERIENCES, AND OPPORTUNITIES.

MAKE YOUR MARK: EDUCATION AND LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

2025 was a significant year for AFLNT's Education and Leadership programs, with a focus on supporting First Nations youth in their personal, educational, and sporting development. The core Make Your Mark program, designed for 10-14-year-olds from remote and very remote communities, engaged 17 schools throughout the year. Delivery included 16 student camps in Darwin and 17 community outreach programs led by the AFLNT Indigenous Programs team.

A total of 457 students participated in the Education and Leadership programs in 2025. Of these, 186 students travelled more than 19,898 kilometres to attend the Darwin-based student camps, while 271 students participated in outreach programs in their home communities. Attendance and engagement were closely supported and monitored, reinforcing school participation and providing structured pathways for personal and educational development.

In addition to core programs, AFLNT extended offerings to school holiday programs for children in Out of Home Care. For the first time, the Make Your Mark program was delivered to Darwin-based schools with high Indigenous enrolments. Students engaged in leadership and personal development modules, AFL skills sessions, and educational workshops without the need to board at the Michael Long Learning and Leadership Centre. Feedback from participants, including Manunda Terrace School, indicated positive outcomes in student engagement and behaviour.

AFLNT also partnered with the Northern Territory Department of Education and Training to support three remote community schools in completing swim safety training in Darwin.

By providing accommodation, leadership, and wellbeing modules, students were able to maximise their time in Darwin while completing essential safety courses, combining educational outcomes with personal development and community engagement.

In 2025, the Make Your Mark program introduced several key improvements to enhance the student experience and strengthen community engagement.

One significant change was the introduction of community-based outreach programs delivered directly by the AFLNT Education team from Darwin. Previously, the Indigenous Programs team had led these components, but having Education staff travel to communities enabled schools to build stronger connections with program staff, better understand expectations for the Darwin-based camps, and form lasting relationships with mentors.

The program also enhanced the involvement of casual staff supporting both outreach and student camps. Increased engagement from this team improved the quality of the camp experience and provided students with additional positive First Nations mentors. Combined with AFLNT full-time staff and service providers, students now have a broader network of role models, offering guidance and inspiration both on and off the field.

Students participating in the Make Your Mark programs also gained unique exposure to professional football environments. Selected students attended three Toyota AFL Premiership matches in Darwin and Alice Springs, including the NAB AFLW Dreamtime match.

During these events, students engaged directly with players, participated in the player guard of honour, and experienced match-day operations firsthand. These opportunities were extended to schools with high engagement in the Make Your Mark programs, providing memorable experiences that reinforced their connection to football and supported their ongoing personal and educational development.

TALENT ACADEMY



TALENT ACADEMY

The 2025 season of the Cazalys NT Talent Academy built on the strong foundations established in previous years, delivering expanded regional engagement, enhanced high-performance opportunities, and continued national representation for Northern Territory football talent.

The season commenced with high-performance camps in Alice Springs and Darwin. In Alice Springs, 41 players from Central Australian communities—including Alice Springs, Mt Allan, Santa Teresa, Yuendumu, and Tennant Creek—participated in a two-day camp, some travelling over five hours to attend.

The program combined high-performance testing, football skills coaching, wellbeing education, team-building, tackling technique, and recovery sessions. In late January, over 60 players from the Top End attended a two-day camp in Darwin, which included fitness testing, nutrition education, strength and conditioning, and football skills training.

The Academy continued to deliver pathways to national programs. In 2025, three NT players - Taj Murray, Marika Carlton, and Danika McDonald - were selected for AFL National Academy programs, with Shakaila Gardiner-Dunn also recognised through national program selection.

Across broader national representative competitions, NT players participated in the Flying Boomerangs versus World (Indigenous vs Multicultural games), AFL Futures (Under-17s), National Indigenous Academy, and National Multicultural Academy programs. Highlights included Liam (Bayn Bayn) Wunungmurra being awarded Best on Ground for the Flying Boomerangs and Gus Trigwell earning All-Australian selection in the Under-16 boys National Championships.

The NT Talent Academy Representative Program provided meaningful national competition opportunities for both male and female pathways. Under-18 boys and girls competed in Coates Talent League matches in Melbourne and Darwin, while Under-16 boys and girls participated in National Championships across Sydney, Melbourne, and the Gold Coast.

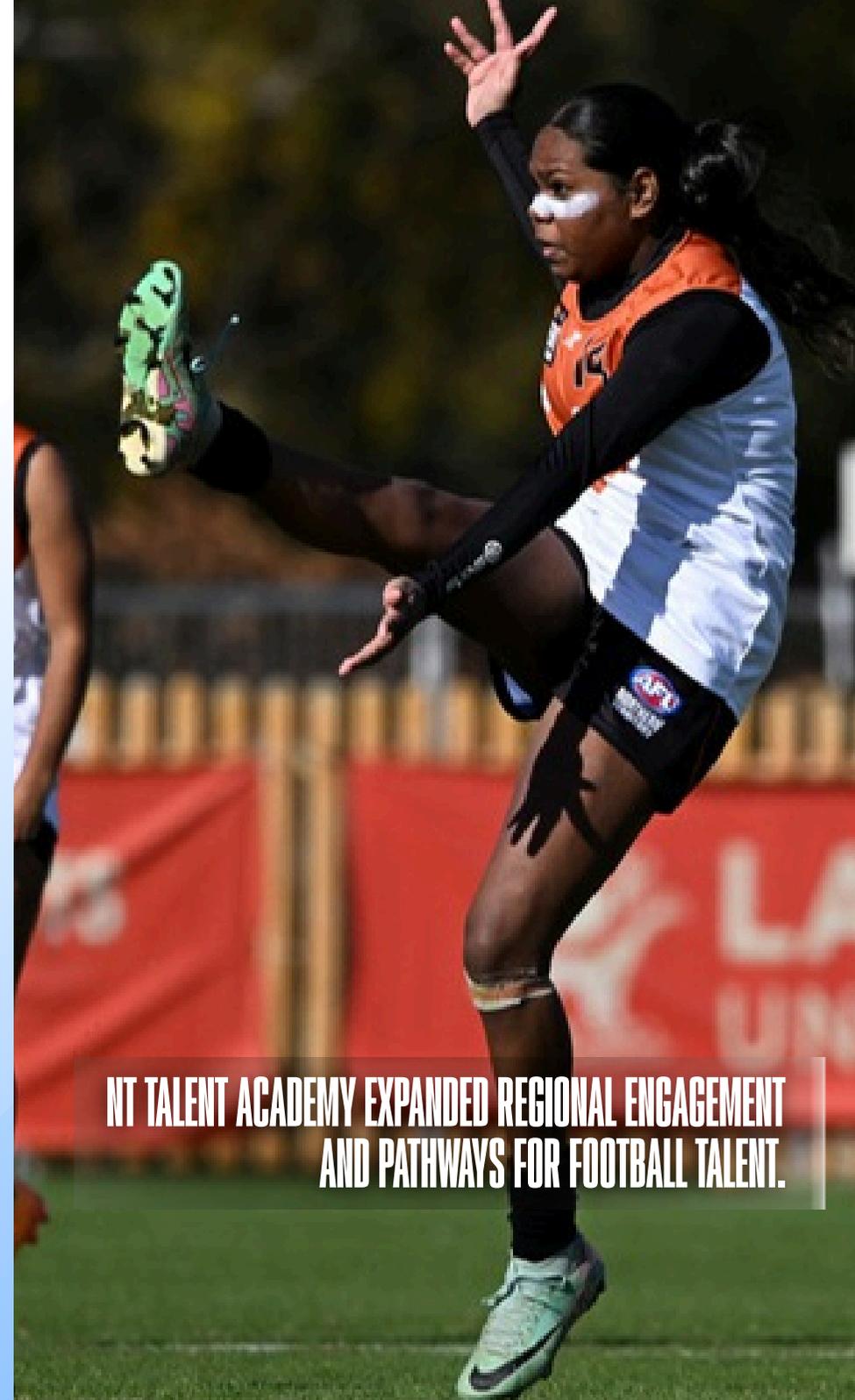
The Under-18 boys program grew significantly, highlighted by a home match at TIO Stadium as a curtain-raiser to an AFL game, where the team delivered an exciting performance for a strong local crowd. Taj Murray capped the season by winning the Hunter Harrison Medal, recognising the best performing non-Victorian player in the Coates Talent League. The Under-18 girls program also achieved a milestone, recording a historic home-soil Coates Talent League win in Darwin, demonstrating both player development and the impact of family and community support.

The Emerging Talent Program continued to expand in 2025, engaging 120 athletes across Under-13, Under-14, and Under-15 boys and girls squads. The program increased from one to two nights per week and delivered a 10-week curriculum covering fundamentals, skill development, game sense, and decision-making. A six-week introduction to gym training and correct movement techniques helped establish safe, effective training habits. The season concluded with the Young Guns games, where over 100 participants showcased their development under lights at TIO Oval 2 in front of a strong crowd.

The 2025 Michael Long Cup provided a major Territory-wide talent identification platform, with trials held across eight regional hubs, including Gove, Elcho Island, West Arnhem, Tiwi Islands, Wadeye, Tennant Creek, Katherine, and Alice Springs. The culminating two-day camp in Darwin brought together 100 of the Territory's most talented Under-15 footballers, 41% of whom were from regional and remote communities. Participants engaged in football matches, skills development, leadership workshops, wellbeing and mindfulness sessions, and strength and recovery education, providing a comprehensive development experience.

For the first time, the Academy also delivered Invitational Games leading into the NTFL season, selecting over 160 players from Academy programs and emerging talent for observation prior to final squad selection. An optional pre-season program complemented club training, providing access to high-performance staff and facilities, alongside a structured training plan from October to December to support fitness and readiness for the upcoming season.

The 2025 season marked another important step forward for the Cazalys NT Talent Academy, with expanded regional reach, strengthened development programming, and ongoing national representation across multiple pathways. Through consistent high-performance standards, targeted talent identification, and investment in both football and wellbeing outcomes, the Academy remains committed to nurturing the next generation of Northern Territory football talent.



**NT TALENT ACADEMY EXPANDED REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT
AND PATHWAYS FOR FOOTBALL TALENT.**



**RECORD VIEWS AND ENGAGEMENT HIGHLIGHTED
THE GROWING DIGITAL IMPACT OF AFLNT.**

COMMUNICATIONS AND DIGITAL

2024/25 was a landmark year for the Communications and Digital team at AFL Northern Territory, delivering unprecedented media coverage, record digital engagement, and expanded broadcast reach.

Across 123 TiO NTFL Premier League games, Toyota AFL Premiership fixtures across Darwin and Alice Springs, and community football finals, the team managed a complex and high-volume workload that brought football to fans across the Territory and beyond like never before.

Central to this success were AFLNT's broadcast partnerships. The TiO NTFL Premier League was streamed live via News Corp, KommunityTV, 7plus platform, and YouTube, offering fans in metropolitan, regional, and remote areas across Australia access to both Men's and Women's competitions, culminating during the finals series. Complemented by ongoing radio coverage through regular radio segments across ABC Radio Darwin, Hot100 and Mix 104.9.

In Central Australia, for the first time the TiO CAFL Town and Community coverage was expanded across the entire finals series broadcast live via ICTV, extending the reach of senior men's, senior women's, and community finals to regional and remote communities.

Digital engagement reached new heights. Across AFLNT and TiO NTFL platforms, content reached millions of fans and followers. TiO NTFL Facebook generated 19.3 million views, alongside 166,677 content interactions, 547,076 visits, and 7,704 new followers across the season. On Instagram, TiO NTFL recorded 3.07 million views and reached 790,011 accounts, supported by 46,856 content interactions and 4,293 new followers.

High-profile fixtures, including the NAB AFLW Dreamtime in Darwin match, continued to elevate AFLNT's profile. The event attracted over 5,892 fans to TiO Stadium and reached more than 17 million people across media channels, the shift to Friday night across both Seven and Fox platforms, had viewership up 45% on the previous season.

Complemented by expanded multi-platform coverage - including player interviews, match highlights, and behind-the-scenes content - drove thousands of interactions and showcased AFLNT's capacity to deliver engaging football content both on and off the field.

Similarly, AFL matches in Darwin and Alice Springs were supported by digital campaigns that highlighted grassroots initiatives, school programs, and community engagement, ensuring football's impact extended across the Northern Territory.

In summary, 2024/25 was a year of record growth and achievement for AFLNT's Communications and Digital team. The strong digital performance across AFLNT and TiO NTFL channels - delivering more than 30 million video views and significant growth in engagement and followers - ensured football in the Northern Territory reached more audiences than ever before.

Media Manager
Tarrah Harris

Communications & Content Coordinator
Ryan Saxelby



EVENTS, STADIA, GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIPS



EVENTS

Throughout the 2024/25 season, AFL Northern Territory delivered an extensive program of sporting and community events across the Territory, reinforcing its role as a key partner in the successful delivery of elite and community sport. The Events team coordinated a diverse calendar of fixtures, including AFL, AFLW, NRL, International Cricket, and TIO NTFL competitions, alongside regional grand finals, themed rounds, community activations, and major presentation events. These initiatives provided meaningful opportunities for Territory communities to connect with elite sport while supporting visibility and engagement for local competitions.

Attendance at marquee events remained strong. The TIO NTFL Grand Final between Southern Districts and St Mary's drew 5,312 spectators to TIO Stadium. AFL and AFLW matches also attracted significant crowds, including:

- AFL Gold Coast SUNS v Western Bulldogs - 9,816 attendees
- AFL Gold Coast SUNS v Hawthorn - 12,314 attendees
- AFL Melbourne v St Kilda (Alice Springs) - 6,721 attendees
- AFLW Richmond v Essendon - 5,892 attendees

The NAB AFLW Dreamtime match between Richmond and Essendon further highlighted the Territory's appetite for elite women's sport. Community engagement activities were integrated with the event, including a Women in Leadership breakfast and the Official Welcome Event featuring 2025 NAB AFLW Indigenous Round Honoree Kirby Bentley and Club Captains.

Other major sporting fixtures also drew strong support, including the NRL clash between Parramatta Eels and Canberra Raiders, and International Cricket events at TIO Stadium. Across all codes, high attendance figures demonstrate the Territory's enduring passion for sport and the strong support of local communities.

Beyond game-day management, the Events and Facilities teams provided venue operations for interstate and national events, including public and corporate food and beverage services. This included the NRL Premiership match, Cricket Australia's A-Series and Men's T20 International fixtures, and the AFL Masters National Carnival. Delivering multi-code, high-attendance events required extensive planning, specialised operational capability, and high-quality service delivery, reflecting the professionalism and capacity of AFLNT's operational teams.

These events also drive important economic and tourism benefits for the Territory. Visiting players, staff, officials, fans, and media generate increased demand for local accommodation, hospitality, and transport, while national broadcast exposure positions the NT as a vibrant sporting destination capable of hosting elite events year-round.

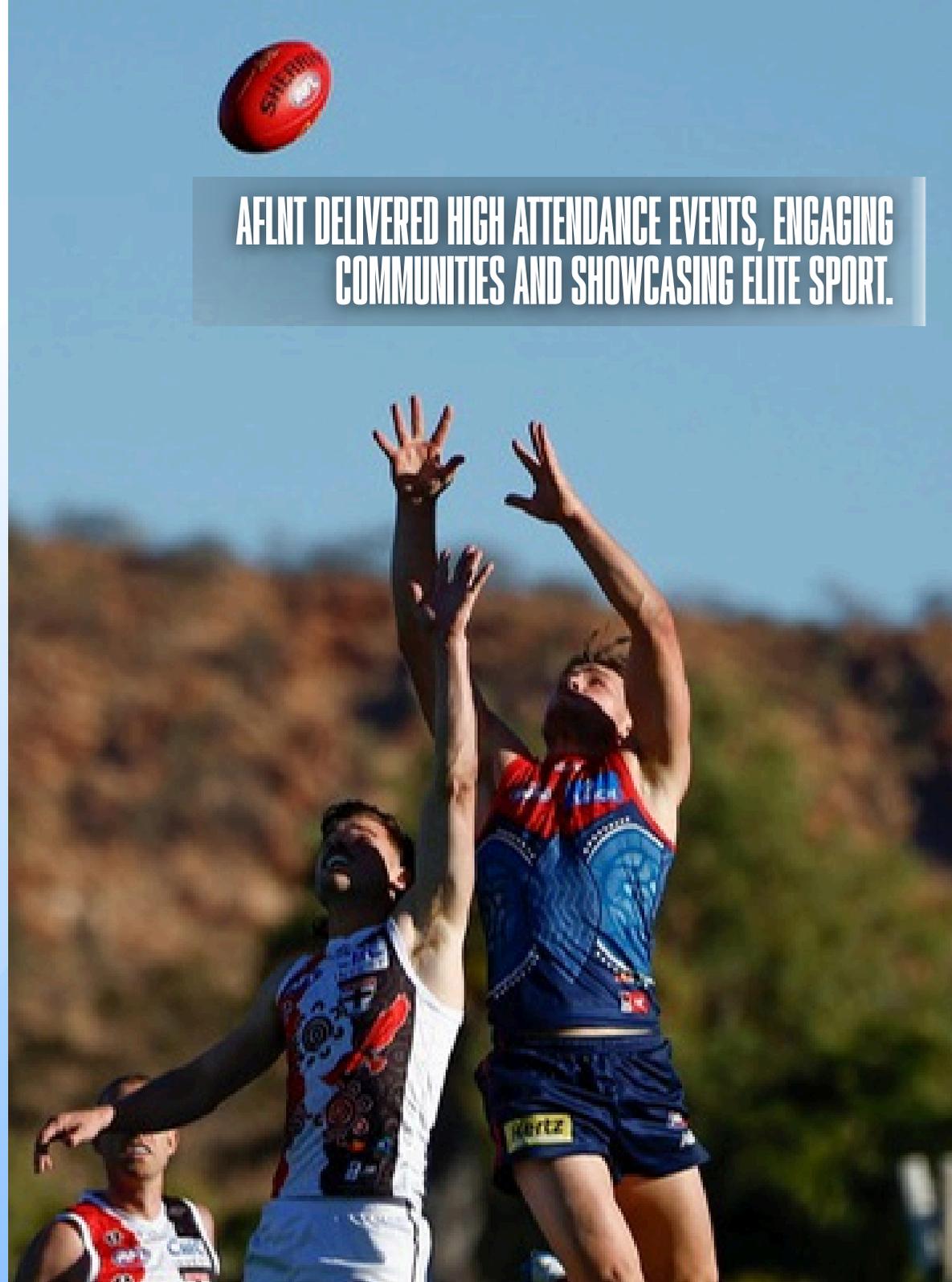
Nichols Medal - 2024/25 Season

The 2024/25 Nichols Medal event remains one of the premier celebrations of Territory football, recognising the skill, talent, and professionalism of NTFL athletes. Held at Mindil Beach Casino on 9 March 2025, the event brought together players, coaches, volunteers, and supporters to honour outstanding performance and contribution.

A historic milestone was achieved in 2025, with both the Men's and Women's Premier League Nichols Medal winners securing their third league best-and-fairest awards - the first time in NTFL history that players in both competitions have reached this achievement, highlighting the consistency and elite standard of NTFL football.



AFLNT DELIVERED HIGH ATTENDANCE EVENTS, ENGAGING COMMUNITIES AND SHOWCASING ELITE SPORT.





**ONGOING UPGRADES ENHANCE PLAYER AMENITY,
ACCESSIBILITY, AND PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES.**

FACILITIES

AFLNT's small but highly experienced Facilities team has worked tirelessly over the past 12 months to ensure all AFLNT-managed venues remain safe, functional, and capable of supporting a diverse range of activities. These include high-performance programs, community events, football operations, education initiatives, and major national fixtures. Through proactive maintenance and continuous improvement, the team ensures that AFLNT venues provide professional, welcoming environments for participants and spectators alike.

Several key facilities across the Territory face challenges due to ageing infrastructure. AFLNT continues to work closely with venue partners, including the Northern Territory Government, Local Governments, and corporate stakeholders, to assess, prioritise, and source funding for critical upgrades. Community football clubs are also being supported to identify infrastructure needs and access funding to improve their own facilities.

Ongoing projects in collaboration with NT, Local Government, and club stakeholders include:

- Nightcliff Oval - new change rooms to enhance player amenity
- Woodroffe Oval - development of a fit-for-purpose venue for Darwin Buffaloes Football Club
- Tracy Village Sports Precinct - expansion to support multiple user groups, including Tracy Village Football Club
- Central Australia Football Hub - planned facilities in remote communities, pending funding

These projects are essential to meet contemporary expectations around safety, inclusivity, and design, particularly as participation by women and girls continues to grow across the Territory.

Michael Long Learning and Leadership Centre (MLLLC)

The Michael Long Learning and Leadership Centre remains one of AFLNT's most utilised and valued facilities. It supports AFL programs, high-performance activities, school visits, talent camps, education experiences, workshops, and functions. The Centre's professional environment and high-quality spaces continue to attract elite sporting teams for pre- and post-game preparation, including recovery sessions, tactical meetings, and physical conditioning.

Planned 2026 upgrades at the MLLLC include improved audio-visual equipment in the lecture theatre, a redesigned reception foyer, a new meeting room, staff breakout areas, upgraded flooring, accessibility tactics, and ongoing gym equipment maintenance. These improvements will ensure the Centre continues to meet the evolving demands of AFLNT programs and visiting elite teams.

TIO Stadium

TIO Stadium, the Territory's premier venue, has undergone multiple maintenance works and minor infrastructure upgrades over the past year. The most significant improvements focused on enhancing player amenity, with upgraded player boxes improving comfort, safety, and the match-day experience. These works ensure TIO Stadium remains capable of hosting elite AFL, AFLW, NRL, cricket, and NTLF fixtures, as well as community events and representative football competitions.



**CORPORATE AND GOVERNMENT PARTNERS UNDERPIN
OUR PROGRAMS, EVENTS, AND DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES.**

COMMERCIAL PARTNERSHIPS

Throughout 2024/25, AFLNT's Commercial Partnerships team continued to strengthen relationships with corporate, government, and community partners across the Northern Territory. Through collaborative engagement, high-quality servicing, and meaningful activation opportunities, the team ensured AFLNT remained a trusted and valued partner, supporting football at all levels.

During the year, AFLNT deepened partnerships across all major competitions, including the NTL, CAFL, BRFL, and BAFL. In Darwin, Cazalys confirmed its ongoing major partnership, providing continued support for Community Football, Cazalys Arena, and the NT Talent Academy. ARN, Seven Darwin, and Casuarina Square all extended marketing agreements, while the NO MORE campaign collaborated with AFLNT on a themed round to promote its important messaging.

Intersport renewed its NTL partnership and expanded support to the CAFL, and McDonald's continued as naming rights partner for the U10s NTL competition.

In Central Australia, TIO committed to a further two-year term as CAFL naming rights partner, KFC maintained support for league umpires, and Lasseters reaffirmed its AFL Alice Springs involvement while expanding its partnership with the NTL v CAFL Representative Game. Regionally, SunCable continued as a partner across both the BRFL and BAFL, complemented by Katherine West Health Board's ongoing support of the BRFL. AFLNT also refreshed its apparel licensing process across all leagues, ensuring clubs and competitions have access to quality suppliers and competitive pricing.

Several event-specific collaborations highlighted the year. INPEX partnered on the AFLW Women in Leadership Breakfast, Cazalys supported AFLW Footy Fest, Sitzler continued as partner for AFLW Dreamtime, and Cazalys and Yeperenye reinforced their support of representative football through the NTL v CAFL fixture held in Alice Springs.

The Make Your Mark program also benefited from strong partner support. MACC continued its commitment, focusing on regional outreach, residential camps at the Michael Long Learning and Leadership Centre (MLLLC), and road safety education. INPEX partnered to deliver leadership and employment pathway components, contributing to a holistic development experience for participating students.

AFLNT acknowledges and thanks all its partners—both longstanding collaborators and new supporters—whose ongoing investment underpins participation, talent pathways, community engagement, and major events across the Territory. Their collective commitment continues to strengthen the game and its impact in communities across the Northern Territory.

AFL NORTHERN TERRITORY WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING KEY CORPORATE PARTNERS FOR THEIR ONGOING SUPPORT

PREMIER PARTNERS



CORPORATE PARTNERS



FINANCIAL REPORT (AUDITED)

The audited financial statements of AFL Northern Territory Limited are presented for the year ended 31 October 2025.

The notes below should be read in conjunction with the Financial Accounts to provide a full understanding of the organisation's financial position and operations.

Financial Position

AFL Northern Territory Limited recorded a statutory profit of \$17,728 for the year ended 31 October 2025, increasing retained profits to \$186,279.

Key financial highlights for the 2025 financial year include:

- Revenue: Overall revenues increased by \$810k primarily driven by government funding associated with hosting three AFL men's matches and one AFLW match, alongside support for community football and Indigenous Programs
- Expenses: Operating expense increases to support match-day operations, event delivery and game development initiatives.
- AFL Support: The AFL provided continued financial backing through State grant funding.

Acknowledgements

AFL Northern Territory thanks its ongoing sponsors, partners, and supporters for their continued contribution to football across the Territory.

This includes:

- The AFL, for their guidance and support
- The Northern Territory and Federal Governments, for their ongoing funding and investment in AFLNT, the Michael Long Learning and Leadership Centre, and affiliated leagues
- Club sponsors and supporters, whose commitment underpins participation, development pathways, and community engagement



Sean Bowden
Chairman - AFL Northern Territory

STATEMENT OF PROFIT AND LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR END 31 OCTOBER 2025

	Note	2025 \$	2024 \$
Revenue	3	12,336,763	11,526,817
Expenses from operating activities	4	(12,319,035)	(11,507,063)
Net profit/(loss) for the year		17,728	19,734
Other comprehensive income for the year		-	-
Total comprehensive profit for the year		17,728	19,734

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 OCTOBER 2025

	Note	2025 \$	2024 \$
Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	9(a)	68,907	40,910
Trade and other receivables	5	1,317,961	2,677,156
Other assets		5,399	2,000
Total current assets		1,392,267	2,920,067
Total non-current assets		-	-
Total assets		1,392,267	2,920,067
Liabilities			
Trade and other payables	6	422,339	396,825
Deferred income	8	783,649	2,354,691
Total current liabilities		1,205,988	2,751,516
Total non-current liabilities		-	-
Total liabilities		1,205,988	2,751,516
Net assets		186,279	168,551
Equity			
Retained earnings		186,279	168,551
Total equity		186,279	168,551



2025 AFL FOOTY FOCUS COMPETITION WINNER
(PHOTO BY CHARLIE LOWSON)