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| Change Our Game  Ambassador Hero – Sharni Layton |
| Video transcript |

**[Change Our Game Logo]**

**Sharni Layton:**

Absolutely, I've noticed a huge change not only in netball over the last - this is my 14th season playing, so I've played in three competitions. It's not just monetary, the first year I was playing I was lucky to get $1000 a year, but now we're semi-professional and the minimum wage is $30,000 for our girls which is awesome, so that's been one area of growth. As I already mentioned in regards to spectators, we used to get about 1000 people at the game, now we get sell-out crowds, up in Sydney we get crowds of up to 15,000 coming to round games which is phenomenal and not only that but also the exposure in the media that we get, you know, the Commonwealth Games it's just been and seeing us as a real figure in the sporting community coming up against AFL and NRL and being able to be a real pusher for women's sport. You know AFLW has had that real impact but netball has grown really gradually but worked so hard to be the leaders in women in sport in professionalism and I'm really proud to be a part of that over the last decade.

The Change Our Game Ambassador role means a lot to me because ever since I started playing - to be honest just wanted to put netball on the map, it probably wasn't a women in sport thing. So to be a part of that and help grow that has always been my intention, and so to have the ability to be able to talk on a bigger stage and hopefully inspire women to take part in sport, in leadership roles it's amazing that the Victorian government is now offering the opportunities for women to be able to do that because sometimes we do need a little bit more confidence, you know, we're not all as confident as a Sharni Layton and I'm completely aware of that. To be able to have a platform, to be able to continue to push and inspire women in sport because it has so many more benefits for the wider Australian community not just in sport but as a whole country.

I believe, and this is my own personal opinion, that the roadblocks for women in sport is that we're still just growing and so for us we're just on a delayed timeline compared to our male counterparts, you know, where they used to work full-time and not professional athletes in the 60s and 70s and that's where we are now. So the roadblocks are still the media, the coverage that we're getting obviously it's the broadcast that brings in a lot of money for them and that's what I know in netball particular, we are still pushing for and we're very grateful to obviously have Channel 9 on board, but to be able to have the broadcasting dollars to be able provide opportunities as a professional business which we are but to grow that as big as the male counterparts is something that we are still pushing for. As I said that's only netball in particular, so to be able to get the media channels, not just TV, but the sponsors, the corporates getting behind our women's sport and putting the dollars into really great roles models and to help push them to the community is going to benefit everyone in regards to equality and business which I'm pretty sure is still up there on the main agenda for most boards. There are roadblocks but I think that's where we are in history but I think the more of us speaking out and creating these programs like Change Our Game, we can definitely fast-track it because we know what can be achieved.

I do want to say a massive thankyou to the government for acknowledging that this is a space that is still growing and it needs help to grow, and they've shown that by backing Change Our Game. As athletes or as woman role models we can only do so much without that platform, and I think in netball we've been really lucky with our facilities but when you've got the other sports, I know the W-League or the AFLW who are trying to get those female facilities so it is not scary for girls to want to go and play those sports, it is so important. We do need that help to be able to have the confidence to take that step to create more leadership roles so the fact that they're doing that is only going to have a greater benefit to the community. I can't wait for ten year’s time to see the impact that this program has had so I can just say another massive thankyou again. Just stick with it it's never going to be a quick turn-around but we are going to do everything we can, not only for our sport but for our community.

**[Change our Game logo]**

**[State Government of Victoria logo]**

[Authorised by the Department of Health and Human Services, 50 Lonsdale St Melbourne. Spoken by S.Layton

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