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| Change Our Game  Ambassador Hero – Kitty Chiller |
| Video transcript |

**[Change Our Game Logo]**

**Kitty Chiller:**

I’m Kitty Chiller and I am a Change Our Game Ambassador.

I think it's a fantastic program and it's a really important program to ensure that people can see that it can happen, and it does happen. And it's not saying necessarily that it's easy all the time, but it's enabling people to have hope, and see that 'Okay, you know, I can do that, I can dream big, I can achieve this, I can access that, I can do that', whatever it might be where previously they might have thought 'Oh no, I've never seen anyone doing that', you know, to have role models be they an athlete, an administrator, a manager in whatever field they might be, to have role models that people can see, If it gives them hope, if it gives them a dream and it gives them belief that they can achieve that dream, that's a really important program to have.

Look I've always had a passion for sport, I started when I was a swimmer when I was 6 years old, then I was actually a gymnast, where I'm working in the sport of gymnastics - I started gymnastics when I was probably about 9 or 10, and then I went to athletics, and then combined all of those and ended up as a modern pentathlete, in the modern pentathlon where I spent the majority of my career as an athlete. And that pathway from sport, I always loved sport, I recognised from a very early age the benefits that sport gives you holistically, in your whole life and for your whole life. It's always been a huge passion of mine and, you know, I've been very fortunate that I've been able to continue to forge a career through sport and remain in it for as long as I have.

Talk about gender equality in sport! So I started modern pentathlon in 1982, modern pentathlon had always been an Olympic sport for men, been on the Olympic program since 1912 for men, so I started in 1982 thinking that it was going to be in Los Angeles, it wasn't, nor in Seoul, nor in Barcelona, nor in Atlanta, so I had to wait 18 years to actually have the opportunity to compete in the Olympics which I was fortunate enough to do in Sydney.

And look I think 2000 was a real watershed and I think the fact the Olympics were in Australia in that year helped break through that barrier, you know we had women's water polo come in, you had the whole sport of triathlon come in, but there were a lot of female sports that were put in the Games in 2000 and I think that was more the Australian way of life and I think that was, that was really the beginning of the momentum for female sport.

I learn a lot more resilience, I thought I was pretty resilient going in. If you're going to survive something like that and that scrutiny you have to be a million percent rock solid in what you stand for and what you believe in, and that you are doing, saying, deciding, the things for the right reasons. Which in my case was for the athlete and the well-being of the athlete, and that drove every decision, every appointment, every announcement, every single thing I did. I think that's the thing that you learn most. That there were times early on, where I'm checked in and I thought 'hang on', am I actually comfortable with this, is this the right thing, am I doing this for the right reason? And that is the only thing that can help you survive, when the, largely totally uninformed criticism, comes flying at you.

I've never entertained that I may have been discriminated against or disadvantaged because I'm a female in the sport, I just get on and do what I need to get done, for the first time ever, during that experience I do believe that the attention and the subsequent criticism was largely because I was female, yep.

I think the last half a dozen years or so in Australian sport especially with the professional codes now, they all have female sport, they're on television, they're on prime time, they're on free to air, you know, people are talking about them, and it's fantastic. We need that impetus, we need that momentum, we need blokes talking around saying 'Oh did you see, did you see the Matilda's play, did you see that? Wow they're actually quite skilful aren't they?', if that's what it takes, that's what it takes, and we need to capitalise on and maximise that exposure to keep that conversation going.

**[Change our Game logo]**

**[State Government of Victoria logo]**

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

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