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| Change Our Game  Ambassador Hero – Katie Brennan |
| Video transcript |

**[Change Our Game Logo]**

**Katie Brennan:**

My pathway began back in Queensland. I always had footy in the blood - being a Victorian, well my parents being Victorian - and had always wanted to play football all my life. So I had an older brother and I went down to AusKick with him and then as soon as he started playing I was on the sidelines just with a footy in my hand wanting to be out there. One week his team was short and I got my run at it, Dad put me in the forward pocket and he just told me not to get hurt and I ended up kicking seven that day and that was sort of the start of my little football journey and I was able to play with the boys all the way through to the Under 14s.

The grassroots level has grown dramatically and it's such a beautiful thing to see. Not only that young women can start football from the age of AusKick and can continue that pathway all the way through, but that it's actually normal for girls to be kicking the footy with their brothers, for people not to look twice because I know that happened when I was a young girl, that people just used to stop and look at me you know, ""Is that a girl or a boy out there?"", and it just wasn't normal. The development of the AFL Womens will help to drive those junior levels and the participation of the sport, but it's just been a fantastic journey and watching the development of those pathways, elite and community levels has been amazing to see.

The women involved in AFL Womens now such as Susan Alberti, Nicole Livingstone, Sam Mostyn and Debbie Lee and there's so many names that I could put in that sentence, have been incredible and they've paved the way for us. I know that I look up to all of them, and you go to them for mentoring and for support because we're still fighting a battle, you know, there's still so much to be done, but for them to have put themselves out there and have done the hard yards, you sort of go out there knowing you're playing for so much more than yourself or your club, you're playing for the generations that missed out but also the future generations to come.

Yeah it means the world to me. I find that being an athlete sometimes is a selfish pursuit, I think you can… you're indirectly inspiring and making a change but to be able to speak about how important it is to have equality and whether it's on or off the field is something that I hold dear and yeah I'm really happy to be a part of the program.

**[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.Brennan

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