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| In Conversation – Change Our Game ChampionsPeter Burns, CEO YMCA Victoria  |
| Video transcript |

**[Change Our Game Logo]**

**[In Conversation – Change Our Game Champion. Peter Burns, CEO YMCA Victoria**

**Peter Burns:**

I'm Peter Burns, and I'm the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Mission Advocate of YMCA Victoria, and I am a Change Our Game Champion.

**Interviewer:**

Peter, congratulations on being a Change Our Game Champion. Tell us a little bit about YMCA.

**Peter Burns:**

Well firstly, it's a privilege to be in the Change Our Game Champion group. And the YMCA is a 175 year old organisation, we've always been active in physical activity, sports delivery. We invented basketball for example. And these days we're really famous for commitment to the power of inspired young people, and we focus largely on working with young people and their communities, and the young at heart to be healthy, active and really engage with life.

**Interviewer:**

We're talking to a lot of different sports and some of them have been on a journey where men and women and girls and boys have come into the sport together, and others that have been predominantly men. YMCA obviously started off as an organisation solely for men, but your transformation has been a hundred years plus in the making.

**Peter Burns:**

That's right. And, I think as a social movement we've accepted the responsibility to be progressive, and to anticipate societal trends and needs. And so, as far back to the 70s we've had women presidents of the YMCA, and people involved all over the place. Our challenges these days are to continually push the boundaries of expectations. So, we're meeting the expectations of our current cohort, and that's the millennials.

**Interviewer:**

And what are the challenges involved in that group other than the screen, the dreaded and screen?

**Peter Burns:**
The pace of change is quite profound. And so, organisations like to go slowly. What we're trying to do is wind ourselves up to be rapid and adapting, and that's really crucial. So we've got pods of people everywhere working on advancing our social interaction, our capacity to be welcoming, not only open to women, but welcoming and genuinely inclusive for full diversity.

**Peter Burns:**So we've got gender inclusivity, little working groups, committees that get involved in the community. We've got women in leadership training programs to advance future leaders through that sort of program. We're genuinely involved in work on violence against women and family violence, and we worked on some research in that area.

**Peter Burns:**
So for us, it's not entering this area or talking about it. For us, we feel a responsibility. There's a pretty large organization in the Victorian activity landscape, probably one of the largest ones to be a leader, not a follower.

**Interviewer:**

So you're going to be a pretty popular when you're sitting around the table of the other change our game champions, I would imagine, which is why no doubt you're involved. If we have this conversation in a year's time, what do you think you will have gained personally, and the YMCA have gained from being involved in the change our game program?

**Peter Burns:**

Well personally I'll be intellectually challenged, and my behaviors will continue to evolve. And for me, that's about being relevant and being open to any change, and then inviting it in. And, and my role in this job is to create the space for the transformation of the organization, and the women in our organization, so that they can have the impact that they are designed to have. And that's really important to me. My role is to clear the way so people can run forward, not hit roadblocks.

I'm Peter Burns and I'm the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Mission Advocate of YMCA Victoria, and I am a change our game champion.

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