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| Change Our Game  Ambassador Hero – Stella Smith |
| Video transcript |

**[Change Our Game Logo]**

**Stella Smith:**

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| My pathway began many years ago when I started working at 'Life. Be in it Australia'. Initially in administration, and then I moved into marketing and media, and several other roles before becoming General Manager of the organisation. I left not long after that when I was expecting my first child and went onto form an ad agency with two of the former directors of Life. Be in it. and working on government projects for community service campaigns, so cyclones, bushfires, any sort of natural disaster, I've worked on the literacy campaign and I've worked with government quite a bit over the years. I also had a long stint in finance, working as a consultant before coming into Melbourne Victory about five and a half years ago.  I didn't understand early on in my career that my real passion was for what sport could do for people. It wasn't so much how people could get involved in sport, it was really what sport could do. And the work that I do for Victory it's really a privilege actually to be able to do what I do. I lead a team that has an enormous range of community programs and we do work from Parkville youth detention centre into conservative communities with girls who would never ever get to experience football otherwise. There's all sort of things we can do with sport and that's what I love about it and I love the opportunities that are still available and the opportunities for women that will exist even more so now with the Change Our Game campaign.  It was actually just recently when the government announced that they would invest $10 million into what will become the home of our W-League team. It will also be the youth academy for Melbourne Victory. But for our women's team it's been two years of long hard work to get the funding for this facility. They will now have a home where they can train and they can play and they will now have access to the multi-million dollar sports science facility at Victoria University. Which is absolutely fantastic - so that's my career highlight so far. I still have plenty to go but that's my career highlight so far.  To be a Change Our Game Ambassador really means an opportunity. For years now I've seen men administer sport, and I come at this from a very different angle to the athletes, I see what the men get and I see what the women get but I also see in community sport what young girls are missing out on. I have two children, I have a son and a daughter, it would never occur to me to ask either one to go outside to get changed - that's what's gone on in previous years for girls. Any opportunity I get to promote women and encourage leadership for women and at the community at the grassroots level, I've experienced the 100 men in the room and me, so I'd really like to see women step up into those leadership roles and I'd like to see men give them the opportunity to do that to really become Champions of Change in their own clubs. |
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**[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. Smith

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