

|  |
| --- |
| Change Our Game - Community AmbassadorMichelle Redfern, Director, Williamstown Football Club  |
| Video transcript |

**[Change Our Game Logo]**

**Michelle Redfern:**

I'm Michelle Redfern, I'm a board director at the Williamstown football club, and I'm chair of the VFLW subcommittee. About 18 months ago, it was really clear that we were going to put our all into putting a female football team on the ground this year, and by the time we got our license, that time bracket had shortened somewhat, and for the women to start training in January, and then literally be running out onto the ground, only a few months later. It's a dream come true for the club, for me, and of course for the women who are playing for the club. It's just fantastic to see.

If I went back a few years, I would have imagined being part of 155 year old club, and introducing women ... Playing women into the club would have been difficult culturally, absolutely not. The leadership, the board, the men who are playing and the many involved in the club, and the broader community enormously supportive, so that was not a challenge at all. Financially, absolutely. Most football clubs are really lean organizations, and we use every cent of our funds available to us, to create really great football in precincts, had great facilities for our players, and our communities. So, to stretch that budget out to accommodate female football was certainly a great act of leadership by the club, and the community.

**Amy Catterall:**

I'm Amy Catterall, and I'm the head coach at Williamstown, for the VFLW. It's about being part of history. It's about coming from women's history, and keep leading the charge. I feel really blessed that I've been give the opportunity and I'm able to pass on all my knowledge that I know to the future generations of women's football. I always say if you don't change with the times, you get left behind, so one of the things I always tell the women is, you've got to be adaptable, you've got to change. We've gotta keep moving with the times, we can't get left behind. So, yep.

**Michelle Redfern:**

We've heard of other women who have been on the sidelines watching for years and years, usually sons, and then their pulling on the footy bits, but absolutely a little ease. You know, we have a great family club, and that little guys and little girls can look out onto the footy field and go, "Hey, I can be that person one day." It's now genderless, and so all of those kids can come to Williamstown and any other football environment in Victoria now, it's like, "Hey, I can do that, and I can play, which is just cool. Very very cool.

**Amy Catterall:**

There's never been a better time to change our game.

**Michelle Redfern:**

There's never been a better time to change our game.

**[Change our Game logo]**

**[State Government of Victoria logo]**

[Authorised by the Department of Health and Human Services, 50 Lonsdale St Melbourne. Spoken by M. Redfern and A. Catterall]

To receive this publication in an accessible format email Change Our Game <changeourgame@sport.vic.gov.au>

Authorised and published by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne.

© State of Victoria, Department of Health and Human Services, July 2018