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| In Conversation – Change Our Game ChampionsNick Honey, CEO Basketball Victoria  |
| Video transcript |

**[Change Our Game Logo]**

**[In Conversation – Change Our Game Champion. Nick Honey, CEO Basketball Victoria**

**Nick Honey:**

I'm Nick Honey, CEO of Basketball Victoria and I'm a Change Our Game Champion.

**Interviewer:**

Nick, congratulations on being a Change Our Game Champion. Basketball's a sport that's historically been very strong in including women and girls in the sport, league level and participation level, as well. But I'm sure that comes with a lot of challenges as the number of girls who want to play the game increases every year.

**Nick Honey:**

Yeah, that's right. Look, it's a nice problem to have, increasing numbers. But you're entirely correct, the more there are, the more that we have to service and we've got to try and keep that customer satisfaction level high. Although, they might hang around, so it's about not only retaining, attracting, but retaining and it's certainly a challenge.

**Interviewer:**

From a participation level, obviously with the Opals being such a strong brand in women's sport and WNBL on television screens, it means you've got more and more young girls coming through. But also, at the upper level, basketball's a sport that you play until you're much older, as well. So you've got more older women playing the game, as well, which must be pleasing for you.

**Nick Honey:**

It is. You know, we try and market the game as a game for life. And we, like a lot of sports, trying to introduce some variations to accommodate different age levels. We're now rolling out the walking basketball program for the elderly, where there's no running, only walking. And, that's going really well. But, without question, the more members that play through all age groups, we wave that flag and it's successful, but it's certainly challenging.

**Interviewer:**

So that does come with challenges, as you mentioned and roadblocks. And I would imagine facilities, the facilities for women and girls, change rooms, et cetera, but actually having the courts to be able to cater for the numbers must be a huge roadblock for participation.

**Nick Honey:**

Yeah, again, you know, the three vital components to a business with players that we've spoken about obviously, and facilities and referees. So, having enough courts to schedule the games, there is a demand for, is a messy challenge. We've been working on that really, really diligently over the last five or six years, both politically and through associations and relationships with council. I think we're 180 courts short of demand, according to our last facilities survey. So that's a fair investment that we've got to find to make demand, not just for playing but for training, as well. So that's been a major issue, too, is the quality of training. A lot of the teams, only have half courts to quarter courts to run around and train on. So it's been challenging.

**Interviewer:**

So government investment is helping that in terms of building new facilities, particularly in growth here. What about from a leadership position within clubs, for women who are aspiring to be leaders? Are you seeing enough change in that area?

**Nick Honey:**

No, we're not seeing enough change. There's no question that that's a major issue and therefore a major focus for our sport. The vast majority of senior positions within club land and working it's way up the hierarchy are filled by men. That's a major issue. So, yeah, we've got to address that.

**Interviewer:**

So how are you addressing it? Obviously being part of the Change Our Game Program will help. You being a Change Our Game Champion can make a difference, but more tactically, what are some of the things that Basketball Victoria's doing?

**Nick Honey:**

We've got a number of programs we've working on over time. We've got educational programs. We've got leadership seminars. We're running a really strong leadership program at the moment for club and association aspirants. Female aspirants that want to potentially move into those leadership positions. So it's about educating, empowering, training. Certainly focusing on female coaching, as well. We've identified, it's no surprise to anyone, that the girls like to be coached by women. And there are not enough female coaches. So, more coaching courses, more coaching courses being led by women for women. So, simple stuff, but you know, not that easy to execute.

**Interviewer:**

When we check in at the end of the year, a full year of being involved in the Change Our Game Program, what are you hoping to have gained by being involved that might help with Basketball Victoria?

**Nick Honey:**

Personally, I'm looking to make sure that you know, my understanding and education is up to speed with what is currently best practice and accepted practice, and how I can therefor transfer that across to the culture and programs of Basketball Victoria to continue to pursue our goals, which you know, is more females in leadership positions, more females playing basketball.

I'm Nick Honey, CEO of Basketball Victoria and I'm a Change Our Game Champion.

**[Change our Game logo]**

**[State Government of Victoria logo]**

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