

Australia

Female Friendly Sport Infrastructure Guidelines



TYPE OF TOOL
*Methodology/
Guidelines/
Requirements*



MAIN SECTORS
Social infrastructure



THEME
Gender



INFRASTRUCTURE GOVERNANCE PILLARS
Long-term strategic vision

In a nutshell



OBJECTIVE: Victoria's Female Friendly Sport Infrastructure Guidelines provide advice on how to develop gender equitable sports and recreation facilities.



Agency in charge
Sport and Recreation Victoria



Levels of government
Sub-national



Year of implementation
2017



Current status
Fully operational

Overview

In 2017, the Australian state of Victoria adopted the “Female Friendly Sport Infrastructure Guidelines” that provide advice on how to develop gender equitable sports and recreation facilities. These guidelines were adopted to address the low female participation rates in sports, which is partially explained by the fact that sports facilities in Victoria have been historically designed to meet primarily the needs of male participants. The concept of female friendly infrastructure comes from including a number of factors and attributes into the design of the facilities that encourage its use by women and girls. Some examples include taking into consideration crime prevention and public safety in the design of public spaces, ensuring an adequate lighting around the facility, providing sufficient baby changing amenities and adopting a child-safe facility design. In terms of redevelopment or adaptation projects, the guidelines also encourage an audit of existing sports infrastructure to address gender equity issues in the infrastructure design. The guidelines focus on three key enablers:

- 1. Facility planning and design:** This section addresses the physical environment of a community facility or sporting pavilion. It focuses on key concepts involved in redeveloping existing facilities, as well as designing and building new facilities with the needs of female users in mind.
- 2. Maximising use:** This section provides guidance on female friendly sport and recreation programming and cultural behaviour. It focuses on scheduling and programming that addresses female needs, and refers to diversity, role modelling, promotion and organisation integration.
- 3. Policy that drives change:** This section provides a focus on implementing strategy through collaborative approaches. It outlines policies pertaining to funding, access and usage, as well as measuring, monitoring and reporting procedures.

REFERENCES:

- Sport and Recreation Victoria, *Female friendly sport infrastructure guidelines*, <https://sport.vic.gov.au/publications-and-resources/female-friendly-sport-infrastructure-guidelines>