

# Empowering girls through sport

Women's Leadership



# Creating leaders

80% of female *Fortune* 500 executives played competitive sports at one point in their lives. (espnW EY Study)

Participating in sports can help break-down gender stereotypes, improve girls' and women's self-esteem and contribute to the development of leadership and strategic thinking skills (UNESCO).

Sports allow women to have individuality and identity within societies that might otherwise count them out.



## EMPOWERING OUR PACIFIC NEIGHBOURS

The FijiAus Quad Series was a successful campaign for the Fiji Pearls squad as they prepare for the upcoming Pacific Games.

The Quad Series served as a valuable preparatory platform, enabling the extended Fiji Pearls squad to engage in high-level matches against top Australian teams, some of whose players participate in the prestigious Suncorp Super Netball Series.

The series was made possible with the support of PacificAus Sports and Netball Australia providing quality game time for the Fiji Pearls.

The South Coast Blaze and Sunshine Coast Thunder also got the opportunity to travel to Fiji and immerse themselves with local culture, train with local teams and attended various netball clinics at primary schools around Suva.



# Changing the narrative

When Papua New Guinea's women's rugby league team made their debut appearance in a trial match in the country's capital Port Moresby in 2017, **they were greeted with a barrage of missiles and insults.**

In a country ranked one of the worst in the world for gender-based violence, in which over 60 per cent of women and girls have been subjected to physical or sexual abuse, the emergence of the team nicknamed the Orchids was evidently too much for many to bear.

**"After the game they told us to walk around and thank the crowd, and they threw water containers at us and called us names you never want to hear,"** the team's current vice-captain, Gloria Kaupa, recalled to the PA news agency.

The Orchids' most significant **breakthrough came in 2019**, with a 20-16 win over England in the second of two Test matches played in the country.

***Instead of hurling abuse, a crowd of almost 10,000 rose to cheer a last-minute try by Shirley Joe that sealed their famous win.***

"I still get goosebumps when I think of that try," said Kaupa. "It was the moment that started to change everything. We earned more respect, more women and girls started to play rugby league and the game grew. But we know we still have a long way to go."

***Elsie Albert  
hopes  
Papua New  
Guinea can  
'change  
mindsets  
and  
empower  
girls'***

# Using the power of the parliament

Empowering Girls Through Sport was a program in the Solomon Islands to support gender equality through grassroots community sports programs and women's leadership run by Women MPs from the NSW Parliament alongside Netball NSW and the Australian High Commission.



Equipment bags for sports clubs



Girls program



Women's Leadership Forum



Women MPs



Field training

# By empowering women and girls to have equitable access to the sports pitch we empower our next generation of leaders.

Team Up is an Australian Government program supporting partnerships across the Pacific that use sport to bring people together, champion inclusion and create opportunity. Sport is a globally recognised vehicle to achieve development outcomes in areas such as health, social cohesion, gender equality and disability inclusion. The Australian Government strongly supports these outcomes through its targeted sport for development programs in the Indo Pacific region.



# Sport as a gateway



Lynda Voltz MP, Piper Duck  
Wallaroos Captain and Marjorie  
O'Neil MP

All played Breakaway for Sydney Uni



Liesl Tesch MP

Dual Paralympian in sailing and  
basketball 5 medals including 2  
gold



Louisa Wall

Former Member for Auckland and  
dual international in rugby and  
netball



Nova Peris Kneebone

Dual Olympian Athletics and  
Hockey former Senator

# Creating a women's parliamentary network that engages with young women through sport



NZ and NSW MPs  
Netball teams British Parliament



NSW, NZ and Federal MPs  
Netball Sydney Olympic Park



Waterloo Women's 7s  
Ellas 7s Coffs Harbour



International Yoga Day  
NSW Parliament



NSW NZ and British MPs  
England Netball Tournament



NSW Netball  
Training Sydney Uni



NSW and Federal MPs  
Cricket Sydney Cricket Ground



Garie Beach SFLSC  
Partnership with diverse communities



# Women's Sport Forums

Holding women's sports forums around NSW gave women MPs opportunities to meet with local young women.

Barriers to sport were barriers to everyday life and provided a direct line to MPs to create networks

