



WESTERN AUSTRALIA

STATE FACILITY REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2024



FOOTBALL
WEST

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Football West is pleased to present the second edition of its State Facility Report.

Following the success of the FIFA Women's World Cup, the rapidly increasing demand for football participation has highlighted the significant gaps in the quality of facilities needed to meet stakeholder expectations.

Over the past 12 months, Football West has continued its auditing process with the support of our clubs and associations and working closely with the Local Government Authorities.

Whilst there have been upgrades in some facilities, the record increase in player numbers over the past 24 months has seen considerable strain placed on facilities in Western Australia, with many unable to meet clubs' requirements.

The importance of having adequate facilities for our community is crucial to support the development and growth of football and provide a good environment for our participants.

The key areas identified for investment and upgrades include change rooms, lighting, pitch conditions, female-friendly facilities and clubhouses. Upgraded lighting was of increased concern across Western Australia with a significant requirement required for lighting infrastructure to secure additional training and playing space at peak times.

This document provides an evidence-based approach to key facility requirements across Football West clubs to continue to support the growth of the game. By using participation data, key areas can be identified as having insufficient infrastructure and plans put in place to provide solutions.

This State Facility Report aligns with Football West's Strategic Plan 2023-2026 and Football Australia's One Football Strategy.




Jamie Harnwell

**Chief Executive Officer
Football West**






 **240K+**
participants

 **250+**
clubs

 **6000+**
coaches


 **30%**
growth in
female players

 **86%**
growth in
female
referees

 **17%**
participant
growth

 **25%**
culturally and
linguistically
diverse
backgrounds

 **25%**
regional
participation

 **91%**
of participants felt
football had a positive
impact on their health
and wellbeing

 **Most
in-demand
school sport ***

*2023 WA Sporting Schools Report

FOOTBALL IN THE WEST

Football is the world game and represents almost 150 countries in the Western Australian football community.

Football is the largest and fastest growing of any sport in Australia. With over 5,000 weekly matches in WA, football is played and watched in suburban parks across the state.

Regional participation represents 25% of football participation and Football West has offered programs and competitions to over 50,000 regional participants. This has been a direct result from Football West's investment to providing dedicated Community Participation Officers in the regions.

Following the completion of Football West's Female Football Plan and the FIFA Women's World Cup, we have seen a 30% growth in female participation including over 50,000 female players participating in competitions, programs and events. The rise in female participation highlights the need for female-friendly changerooms across Western Australia to support participation and growth.

The AFC Women's Asian Cup 2026 and other high-profile events will see Perth host international teams which will continue to inspire the next generation of West Australian players.

The need for investment into WA facilities to support the growth of the football community is outlined in this report as is the importance of adequate facilities to support and encourage current and future generations of West Australian footballers.



THE NEED FOR INVESTMENT

Football West's purpose is to bring communities together through football, which is achieved by providing opportunities, education, development and positive experiences for all participants.

Through building a strong football community aligning with Football West's values of mutual respect, fair play and excellence, opportunities to participate are provided to all, regardless of where they are located. The provision of quality football environments is integral to achieving our goals and creating a long-term sustainable blueprint for growth.

Football is about more than just the game. There are numerous health, social and economic benefits that flow from participation in the game. Football makes our communities healthier, happier and safer. Numerous studies have shown strong positive short- and long-term health benefits from participating in football.

Football also creates opportunities for employment and volunteering, and grows the economy.

In 2018, Sport Australia valued the annual economic impact of community sport infrastructure in Australia to be \$6.3 billion, with associated health and social benefits totaling a further \$10b. Given football is Australia's most popular team sport (according to annual AusPlay surveys), the game plays a significant role in driving these benefits.

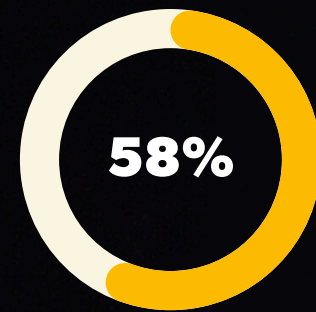
Football is a vehicle that bonds people to their community and increases the overall livability of our state. It also builds community and social cohesion.

What we do next will have an impact on the future generations of the game.

OUR FACILITY GAPS

Of the 201 unique venues used for football activities every week across Western Australia, Football West has conducted detailed provision, compliance and quality audits on 150 individual venues.

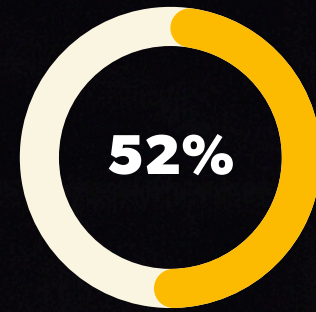
The key findings of these 150 audits are presented below and are considered reflective of the football facility landscape in WA:



58%

DO NOT HAVE

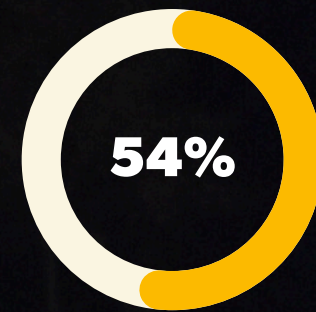
**FEMALE-FRIENDLY
CHANGEROOMS**



52%

DO NOT HAVE

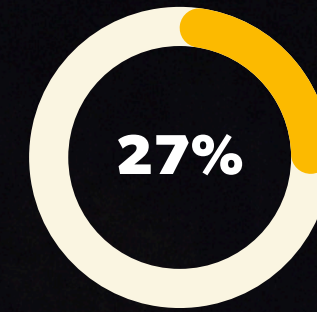
**FEMALE-FRIENDLY
MATCH OFFICIAL ROOMS**



54%

DO NOT HAVE

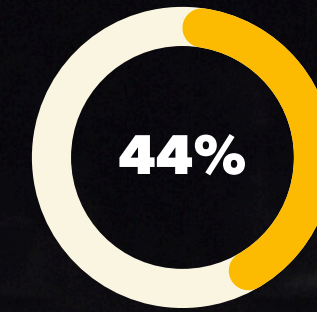
**ADEQUATE SHOWER
FACILITIES**



27%

DO NOT HAVE

**ANY LIGHTING
(PLAYING FIELDS)**



44%

DO NOT HAVE

**ADEQUATE LIGHTING
(PLAYING FIELDS)**



FUTURE FOCUS

Our focus is to ensure there is an accessible network of football facilities across Western Australia.

This network must be capable of supporting future growth at all levels of the game and will build the capacity of clubs and football in general.

Football infrastructure must be:



INCLUSIVE



FIT-FOR-PURPOSE



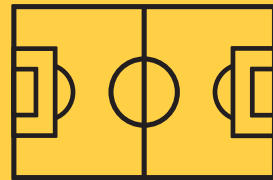
**ACTIVATED
ACROSS THE YEAR**



SUSTAINABLE



OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Improve existing venue capacity

- Increased training and match capable lighting
- Improved pitch conditions for training and matches
- Improved quality of changerooms
- More changerooms for match officials



Support diversity and gender equity

- Ensure all changerooms meet all gender requirements
- Talent development and identification facility in all regions
- Shared school and club projects to access under-utilised green space



High performance infrastructure

- Maintain the Sam Kerr Football Centre as the premier training and match facility (for games of 3000 or less) in Western Australia
- Support the delivery of the 2026 AFC Asian Cup



Plan for future growth

- Ongoing local government and stakeholder engagement
- Regional football strategies in each growth area
- Strategies for use and development of high participation facilities

THE INVESTMENT REQUIRED

It is understood that the required investment can be met through shared and targeted investment from:

- Australian Federal Government
- Western Australian Government
- Local Councils
- Football Australia
- Clubs
- Schools and the education network
- Local communities
- Business and commercial sector



**A 'LIT UP'
FOOTBALL
COMMUNITY**



**AN EQUITABLE
OFF-FIELD
ENVIRONMENT**



**PERFECT PITCHES
TO NURTURE
OUR TALENT**



**SUSTAINABLE
COMMUNITY
CLUBS**



