



Speech By  
**Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe**


**MEMBER FOR SANDGATE**

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**ADJOURNMENT**

**Female Facilities Fund, Sandgate Hawks**

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (12.28 am): Since extending their ranks of AFL teams to include a full complement of female junior and senior teams some five years ago, the Sandgate Hawks have enjoyed a rapid growth in female participation. Celebrating their 75th anniversary this season, the Hawks have fostered a real sense of comradeship among the women, men, boys and girls who play for their teams. The Hawks know that the success of their female teams contributes directly to the success of their club as a whole.

Out on their magnificent field at Taigum the male and female players are equal, but off the field it is a different story. The current change rooms were built in 1979 and only have five male toilets and open showers. I recently caught up with Kara Fabian, the Sandgate Hawks senior women's team captain, who told me about the challenges of, for so many years, having to share these facilities with the male players. It is because of stories like this that, for some time, I have advocated, along with many other members on this side of the House, within the government to address the lack of facilities available for women in sport, using the Hawks and other local clubs like the Sandgate-Redcliffe District Cricket Club—well known for its female players—and the Brighton Bulldogs Football Club as examples. I thank the Minister for Sport for his recognition of this need and the government's support for the development of the Female Facilities Fund.

That is why I am so pleased to inform the House that women and girls at the Sandgate Hawks are set to kick a big goal, with a \$497,482 grant, as part of the Palaszczuk government's Female Facilities Fund program, to provide more practical and inclusive spaces for women and girls in sport. The Female Facilities Fund will help the Hawks' \$650,000 project to build an entirely new amenities block to include some 11 showers, 14 toilets, two change rooms and an officials' room, in addition to amenities for people with a disability and a parents room. This is all about addressing inequality in sport and in our community more broadly.

Equally I want to commend the leadership of the club's committee—in particular president Aaron Widt, who saw female facilities as a crucial part of their long-term strategic vision for the club. It is because of Aaron and the committee's leadership that these upgrades will go hand in hand with the club's long-term strategic vision, which will allow them to continue to host school and club AFL carnivals, other sporting teams, including the famous Bears Softball Club, and community events like the annual Vaisakhi festivities—all the while knowing that they are contributing to building a more inclusive experience for everyone at the Hawks and in the community.

We know that the lack of female facilities is a huge barrier to women and girls getting involved in sport and active recreation. By empowering sports to provide inclusive change facilities through the Female Facilities Fund, clubs like the Hawks can take an important step in addressing this inequality.