



20 NATIONAL PARTICIPATION REPORT

INTRODUCTION

2020 was shaping up to be one of the biggest years yet for Australian football and its 1.96 million participants.

Participation numbers were at an alltime high, the A-League would wrap up its 15th season, the Westfield W-League had some of our brightest female talent, our Westfield Matildas and Olyroos were vying for qualification to the Tokyo Olympics, our Socceroos went into 2020 on top of their FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™ qualification group, and Football Australia were in the final stages of bidding as co-host of the FIFA Women's World Cup 2023™.

Opening the pages of 2020, however, would see us inherit one of our most difficult summers recorded as bushfires ravaged significant parts of the country. Loss of property and life, and the impact on flora and fauna left communities and ecosystems across Australia devastated. Football played its part with a number of key initiatives including the dedication of Rounds 14 and 15 of the A-League season to the work of Rural Aid it its efforts to support first-respondents and those in need.

As we commenced the process of recovery however, we saw the emergence of a new threat, not just to football but on economies and to human life. The COVID-19 pandemic tested Australian football in an unprecedented way and resulted in the suspension of football across the country.

This challenged and disrupted the traditional functioning of Australian football activities at all levels. Consequently, we are likely to feel the impact for years to come as we look to recover from the unprecedented drop in participation numbers and expected depressed economic conditions that threaten previous levels of support. In response, like all other industries and sections of the community at large, football's governing bodies at all levels of the game took the necessary steps to stabilise the game and made the required adjustments to ensure that football was in a strong position to recover.

It is important to also recognise the ongoing support from the Federal, State and Local Governments throughout Australia, who have responded and supported our sport throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. After playing its role as a responsible citizen and performing its civic duty during the height of the pandemic, football was able to resume in most places across Australia with outdoor football activities.

COVID-19 impacted all of the States and Territories this year to varying degrees with Victoria and NSW affected the most, however despite the hardship, we were able to see some positive highlights in 2020 such as Northern Territory which reported participation growth in 2020. Whilst we experienced a decrease nationally in outdoor participation of 13% as a direct consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic, Victoria experienced a much larger decrease of 27% because of the prolonged effects of the lock down within the state.

The resumption of football breathed life back into our game and meant that our football community was able to come together to enjoy the game which we all love. Unfortunately, this was not the case in Victoria which endured more devastating and longer lasting effects of the pandemic, than anywhere else in Australia.

Pleasingly, we experienced an increase across Coaches & Volunteers during the year, which are essential to delivering such a wide-reaching football offer within Australia, especially during such a challenging year as was 2020. We thank all those involved in the delivery of the game for their patience, understanding and additional time required this season.

In response to the disruption, we brought football into the digital sphere with online resources & sessions such as the Skills Hub with play at home challenges catering for players from MiniRoos to Walking Football. We introduced online webinars and coaching seminars & have shown to be resilient and flexible in our approach to delivering football in 2020.

The biggest impact of COVID-19 was felt in the schools and community programs, accounting for 86% of the total participation decrease for 2020. Within this A-League and Westfield W-League clubs' delivery was down by 50% because of COVID-19 restrictions, impacting the number of participants being able to take up the community and school programs on offer. Out of necessity and for public safety, many schools moved to remote learning and in doing so restricted access to external providers.

As part of the response, Football Australia, in partnership with the A-League, Westfield W-League clubs and the Member Federations, created the Schools Football Workbook, an online and interactive football resource for Primary Schools, enabling teachers and students to learn from home.

We were pleased to see outdoor football fared relatively well this season with a moderate drop in participation, due to COVID-19. Victoria's long lockdown meant that an entire season of football was lost in its entirety. Despite the difficult season, we had Member Federations, Associations, Clubs and Volunteers working together to bring football back to most parts of the population who were in need of the benefits that football brings (physical activity, social cohesion, a feeling of community and connection).

2020 FOOTBALL PARTICIPATION KEY INSIGHTS

PROGRAM	% CHANGE	2020	2019
Outdoor Football	13% decrease	470,644	543,159
Futsal	38% decrease	39,130	63,031
Social Football	17% decrease	104,785	125,866
Registered Coaches	10% increase	42,512	38,715
Registered Referees	-5% decrease	10,592	11,198
Volunteers	8% increase	25,168	23,322
Schools Football	60% decrease	236,369	591,347
Community Football Programs	56% decrease	240,644	544,694
Specific Diversity and Inclusion Programs	25% decrease	12,087	16,220
TOTAL PARTICIPATION 2020	40% decrease	1,181,931	1,957,552

Women and Girls represented 143,873 participants in outdoor football, social and registered futsal, down from 156,893 in 2019, representing an 8% decrease in 2020.

There is much to be excited about in the year ahead. The granting of co-hosting rights to the FIFA Women's World Cup 2023™ was a watershed moment for Australian football. The announcement united the entire nation around the game and galvanised the Australian football community behind a common cause, demonstrating the power and potential of women's football in Australia. The ongoing growth and

development of Australian football will be anchored in women's football and significant work with Member Federations, Governments and other stakeholders, has already gone into ensuring that we can maximise the benefits of hosting the FIFA Women's World Cup 2023TM via the establishment of an innovative legacy framework.

Despite challenging circumstances, Football Australia has been able to consider its long-term vision and aspirations for the game and took the opportunity to return to its football core. Following the announcement of Australia as co-host of the FIFA Women's World Cup 2023™ and after a period of robust and extensive consultation with the football community, Football Australia took transformative steps and published its 'XI Principles for the future of Australian football', which advances eleven principles that underpin a bold and innovate 15-year vision for Australian football.

At the centre of the XI Principles is the recognition of the strength and diversity of the Australian football family. We are a melting pot of two million participants (1.2 million now in 2020) represented by over 200 different cultures. No other sport within the Australian sporting landscape offers the type of inherent diversity which football does. This diversity in culture, ideas and experience makes us strong and prepares us well for the challenges which lie ahead of us.

To highlight a significant year for the game in 2020, the organisation underwent an internal reshaping to ensure we are ready to implement our strategic agenda, renamed the organisation Football Australia, revamped the FFA Cup and recently announced the unbundling of the Professional Leagues.

The publication of the Domestic Transfer System White Paper, following the Transfer System webinars late last year, is another significant step as we look to bring to life the XI Principles and we are excited to lead with this strategic initiative in 2021.

The way in which the Australian football community conducted itself during 2020, supported by our Member Federations, was exemplary. Our 2020 participation figures, considering the enormous challenges, are a credit to the efforts of our Member Federations, A-League and Westfield W-League Clubs, Associations, Zones, Community Clubs, and large volunteer base.

On behalf of Football Australia, we want to thank you all for your commitment, dedication, and support. We have been able to navigate our way through a difficult period because of a spirit of collaboration borne from a deep love of our game. You can all be extremely proud of your efforts; they have certainly inspired us.

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James Johnson

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, FOOTBALL AUSTRALIA

2020 HIGHLIGHTS



In the early hours of Friday 26 June, 2020, Australia wins the right to cohost the FIFA Women's World Cup 2023™ with New Zealand



Football Australia teams us with the Australia Red Cross and Black Dog Institute to help respond to the mental wellbeing effects of COVID-19 to the most vulnerable in our community



Football Australia launches the XI Principles – for the future of Australian football, to provide guidance and influence decision making for the future growth and development of football in Australia



The Westfield Matildas and Olyroos both qualify for the Olympics Games Tokyo 2020



Highly experienced Swede Tony Gustavsson is announced as the new Westfield Matildas coach to lead the team in two Olympic campaigns, the AFC Women's Asian Cup in 2022 and the FIFA Women's World Cup 2023™



Football Australia announces new commercial partnerships with Priceline Pharmacy and Cadbury. The new partners are focusing on different areas of support and development for our football community from the Westfield Matildas, developing pathways for women and girls to the future development of MiniRoos



National Teams Staff including
Socceroos Head Coach Graham
Arnold and Westfield Matildas
Assistant Coach Mel Andreatta visit
the Northern Territory in partnership
with John Moriarty Football to
connect with remote Indigenous
football communities



The release of the 'Performance Gap Report' based on findings from internal studies identifying performance gaps in men's and women's football and providing insights, challenges and opportunities for Australian football



Key appointments and restructure of the organisation, allowing Football Australia to be better positioned in delivering the XI Principles – for the future of Australian football



'Football Federation Australia' changes its name to 'Football Australia' signifying a fresh new start for the organisation under the new strategic agenda embodied by the XI Principles – for the future of Australian football



The 'unbundling' between Football Australia and Australian Professional Leagues taking into effect a new framework and future for the game



The biggest highlight of 2020 – witnessing the resilience of football and the way the game united and stayed connected culminating with the return of football in most parts of the country in late 2020



2020 NATIONAL SUMMARY

TOTAL PARTICIPATION 1,181,931

WOMEN & GIRLS PARTICIPATION 143,873

INCLUDES OUTDOOR, REGISTERED FUTSAL & SOCIAL





TOTAL PARTICIPATION 369,205

INCLUDES SCHOOLS, COMMUNITY EVENTS & PROMOTIONAL EXPERIENCES

OUTDOOR AFFILIATED FOOTBALL

470,644 **PARTICIPANTS** 2,304 **CLUBS**



360,757 (77% OF TOTAL)



109,830 FEMALE (23% OF TOTAL)

MINIRCOS 200,871



155,901

FEMALE 44,954

YOUTH 149,296 **PARTICIPANTS**



108,616

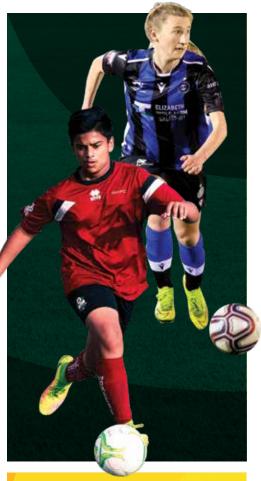
FEMALE 40,673

SENIOR 120,477 **PARTICIPANTS**



FEMALE 24,203

20%



SPECIFIC DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION **PROGRAMS PARTICIPANTS**

12,087

REGISTERED COACHES 80% MALE 20% FEMALE

(3) 42,512

10,592 DEGISTEDED DECEDEES 88% MALE

(1) 25,168 VOLUNTEEDS

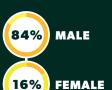
55% MALE

45% FFMALE

OTHER FORMATS

12% FFMALE

FUTSAL 39,130 **PARTICIPANTS**



SOCIAL 104,785 **PARTICIPANTS**



MALE



FEMALE

COMMUNITY EVENTS & PROMOTIONAL EXPERIENCES 240,644 PARTICIPANTS





































194,335

42,034

SCHOOL COMPETITIONS







SCHOOLS TOTAL = 236,369

PARTICIPANTS



2020 NSW SUMMARY









TOTAL PARTICIPATION

411,827

WOMEN & GIRLS PARTICIPATION 71,283

INCLUDES OUTDOOR, REGISTERED FUTSAL & SOCIAL





TOTAL PARTICIPATION 88,674

INCLUDES SCHOOLS, COMMUNITY EVENTS & PROMOTIONAL EXPERIENCES

OUTDOOR AFFILIATED FOOTBALL

217,173 **PARTICIPANTS**



758 **CLUBS**



55,841 FEMALE (26% OF TOTAL)

MINIROOS 91,456





YOUTH 61,587





SENIOR 64,130 **PARTICIPANTS**







22,992

REGISTERED COACHES 76% MALE 24% FEMALE

5,386

REGISTERED REFEREES 88% MALE 12% FEMALE

11,325 VOLUNTEERS

53% MALE 47% FEMALE

SPECIFIC DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION **PROGRAMS PARTICIPANTS** 1,201

Includes programs specifically for Cultural and Linguistically Diverse Communities, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander & All Ability participants

OTHER FORMATS

FUTSAL 3,540 **PARTICIPANTS**



SOCIAL 51,615 **PARTICIPANTS**



MALE



35,952 6,569 SCHOOL COMPETITIONS

SCHOOLS TOTAL 42,521 **PARTICIPANTS**

COMMUNITY EVENTS & PROMOTIONAL EXPERIENCES 56,074 **PARTICIPANTS**

2020 VIC SUMMARY









TOTAL PARTICIPATION

213,794

WOMEN & GIRLS PARTICIPATION 13,350

INCLUDES OUTDOOR, REGISTERED FUTSAL & SOCIAL





TOTAL PARTICIPATION 115,569

INCLUDES SCHOOLS, COMMUNITY EVENTS & PROMOTIONAL EXPERIENCES

OUTDOOR AFFILIATED FOOTBALL

55,257 PARTICIPANTS



361 CLUBS



11,513 FEMALE (21% OF TOTAL)

MINIROS 21,875 PARTICIPANTS





YOUTH
22,513
PARTICIPANTS



23% FEMALE 5,203 SENIOR 10,869 PARTICIPANTS







RE 899

3,408
REGISTERED COACHES
89% MALE
11% FEMALE

1,093
REGISTERED REFEREE

REGISTERED REFEREES 89% MALE 11% FEMALE **1** 2,663

VOLUNTEERS
59% MALE
41% FEMALE

specific diversity and inclusion programs participants 2,180

Communities, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander & All Ability participant

OTHER FORMATS

FUTSAL
23,188
PARTICIPANTS



50CIAL 7,538PARTICIPANTS



MALE



39,738
SCHOOL PROGRAMS
+
4,875
SCHOOL COMPETITIONS

SCHOOL TOTAL
44,613
PARTICIPANTS

COMMUNITY EVENTS & PROMOTIONAL EXPERIENCES 73,854
PARTICIPANTS

2020 QLD SUMMARY





TOTAL PARTICIPATION

183,960

WOMEN & GIRLS PARTICIPATION 15,937

INCLUDES OUTDOOR, REGISTERED FUTSAL & SOCIAL





TOTAL PARTICIPATION 56,333

INCLUDES SCHOOLS, COMMUNITY EVENTS & PROMOTIONAL EXPERIENCES

OUTDOOR AFFILIATED FOOTBALL

65,748 **PARTICIPANTS**

> 52,230 MALE (79% OF TOTAL)

287 **CLUBS**



13,513 FEMALE (21% OF TOTAL)

MINIROOS 30,452 **PARTICIPANTS**





YOUTH 22,461 **PARTICIPANTS**



SENIOR 12,835





6,300 REGISTERED COACHES

84% MALE 16% FEMALE 1,177

REGISTERED REFEREES 12% FEMALE

4,814 VOLUNTEERS

49% MALE 51% FEMALE SPECIFIC DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION PROGRAMS PARTICIPANTS 1,083

OTHER FORMATS

FUTSAL 4,217 **PARTICIPANTS**



SOCIAL 7,139 **PARTICIPANTS**



MALE



34,515 **SCHOOLS TOTAL** 45,730 11,215 **PARTICIPANTS** SCHOOL COMPETITIONS

COMMUNITY EVENTS & PROMOTIONAL EXPERIENCES 47,752 **PARTICIPANTS**

2020 WA SUMMARY





TOTAL PARTICIPATION

144,258

WOMEN & GIRLS PARTICIPATION 10,920

INCLUDES OUTDOOR, REGISTERED FUTSAL & SOCIAL





TOTAL PARTICIPATION 48,130

INCLUDES SCHOOLS, COMMUNITY EVENTS & PROMOTIONAL EXPERIENCES

OUTDOOR AFFILIATED FOOTBALL

36,932 PARTICIPANTS

30,242 MALE(82% OF TOTAL)

251 CLUBS



6,680 FEMALE (18% OF TOTAL)

MINIROS
15,369
PARTICIPANTS



12,515

19% FEMALE 2,850 YOUTH
11,752
PARTICIPANTS



MALE 9,662



FEMALE 2,089 SENIOR
9,811
PARTICIPANTS



MALE 8,065 18%

1,741

SPECIFIC DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION PROGRAMS PARTICIPANTS

4,639



2,105
REGISTERED COACHES

6 549
REGISTERED REFEREES

94% MALE 6% FEMALE VOLUNTEERS
55% MALE
45% FEMALE

OTHER FORMATS

SOCIAL
11,466
PARTICIPANTS



MALE



FEMALE



78,935
PARTICIPANTS

COMMUNITY EVENTS & PROMOTIONAL EXPERIENCES

9,033

PARTICIPANTS

2020 NNSW SUMMARY





TOTAL PARTICIPATION

80,063

WOMEN & GIRLS PARTICIPATION 14,201

INCLUDES OUTDOOR, REGISTERED FUTSAL & SOCIAL





TOTAL PARTICIPATION 19,952

INCLUDES SCHOOLS, COMMUNITY EVENTS & PROMOTIONAL EXPERIENCES

OUTDOOR AFFILIATED FOOTBALL

39,593 PARTICIPANTS

29,841 MALE (75% OF TOTAL) 183 CLUBS



9,744 FEMALE(25% OF TOTAL)

MINIROS
19,121
PARTICIPANTS





YOUTH
12,013
PARTICIPANTS





SENIOR 8,459
PARTICIPANTS





LE 7



3,521REGISTERED COACHES
79% MALE
21% FEMALE

791 REGISTERED RI

REGISTERED REFEREES 89% MALE 11% FEMALE 1,973

VOLUNTEERS
51% MALE
49% FEMALE

OTHER FORMATS

FUTSAL 594 PARTICIPANTS



SOCIAL 13,639 PARTICIPANTS



2,555
SCHOOL PROGRAMS
+ = 2,555
O PARTICIPANTS

COMMUNITY EVENTS & PROMOTIONAL EXPERIENCES 17,397
PARTICIPANTS

2020 SA SUMMARY





TOTAL PARTICIPATION

76,702

WOMEN & GIRLS PARTICIPATION 5,215

INCLUDES OUTDOOR, **REGISTERED FUTSAL & SOCIAL**





TOTAL PARTICIPATION 37,966

INCLUDES SCHOOLS, COMMUNITY EVENTS & PROMOTIONAL EXPERIENCES

OUTDOOR AFFILIATED FOOTBALL

27,994 **PARTICIPANTS**



289 **CLUBS**



4,963 FEMALE (18% OF TOTAL)

MINIRCOS 8,954 **PARTICIPANTS**





YOUTH 10,938 **PARTICIPANTS**





SENIOR 8,102 PARTICIPANTS









4 2,304 REGISTERED COACHES

14% FEMALE

548

REGISTERED REFEREES 95% MALE

5% FEMALE

1,565

VOLUNTEERS 36% FEMALE

OTHER FORMATS

FUTSAL 1,632 **PARTICIPANTS**



SOCIAL 341 **PARTICIPANTS**



MALE



SPECIFIC DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION **PROGRAMS PARTICIPANTS** 867

9,541 1,008 SCHOOL COMPETITIONS

SCHOOLS TOTAL 10,549 **PARTICIPANTS**

COMMUNITY EVENTS & PROMOTIONAL EXPERIENCES 30,902 PARTICIPANTS

2020 ACT SUMMARY





TOTAL PARTICIPATION

33,604

WOMEN & GIRLS PARTICIPATION 7,814

INCLUDES OUTDOOR, REGISTERED FUTSAL & SOCIAL

OUTDOOR AFFILIATED FOOTBALL

14,544 **PARTICIPANTS**

44 **CLUBS**



10,561 MALE (73% OF TOTAL)



3,979 FEMALE (27% OF TOTAL)

SENIOR

3,664

PARTICIPANTS

MINIROS 6,335 **PARTICIPANTS**





YOUTH 4,545 **PARTICIPANTS**





MALE



1,049



882 **REGISTERED COACHES** 82% MALE 17% FEMALE

654 **REGISTERED REFEREES** 78% MALE

488 VOLUNTEERS

47% MALE 53% FEMALE

OTHER FORMATS

22% FEMALE

FUTSAL 4,043 **PARTICIPANTS**



SOCIAL 8,748 **PARTICIPANTS**





SPECIFIC DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION **PROGRAMS PARTICIPANTS** 48

Includes programs specifically for Cultural and Linguistically Diverse Communities, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander & All Ability participants

3,814 SCHOOL PROGRAMS

0 SCHOOL COMPETITIONS **SCHOOLS TOTAL** 3,814 **PARTICIPANTS**

COMMUNITY EVENTS & PROMOTIONAL EXPERIENCES 383 **PARTICIPANTS**

2020 TAS SUMMARY



TOTAL PARTICIPATION

22,815

WOMEN & GIRLS PARTICIPATION 4,187

INCLUDES OUTDOOR, REGISTERED FUTSAL & SOCIAL

OUTDOOR AFFILIATED FOOTBALL

10,435 **PARTICIPANTS**

114 **CLUBS**



7,521 MALE (72% OF TOTAL)



2,914 FEMALE (28% OF TOTAL)

SENIOR

1,852

PARTICIPANTS

MINIROS 5,750 **PARTICIPANTS**





YOUTH 2,833 **PARTICIPANTS**





FEMALE



797 REGISTERED COACHES

265 **REGISTERED REFEREES** 87% MALE

VOLUNTEERS 86% MALE

1,607

300

2,870

SCHOOL PROGRAMS

SCHOOLS TOTAL PARTICIPANTS

OTHER FORMATS

FUTSAL 1,841 **PARTICIPANTS**



SOCIAL 3,000 **PARTICIPANTS**



FEMALE

COMMUNITY EVENTS & PROMOTIONAL EXPERIENCES 1,700 PARTICIPANTS

2020 NT SUMMARY



TOTAL PARTICIPATION

12,327

WOMEN & GIRLS PARTICIPATION 966

INCLUDES OUTDOOR, REGISTERED FUTSAL & SOCIAL

OUTDOOR AFFILIATED FOOTBALL

2,968 **PARTICIPANTS**

CLUBS



2,285 (77% OF TOTAL)



683 FEMALE (23% OF TOTAL)

SENIOR

PARTICIPANTS

MINIROS 1,559 **PARTICIPANTS**

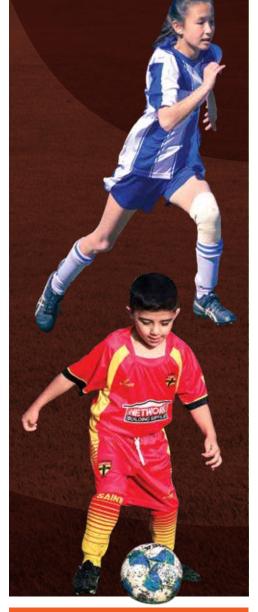


YOUTH 654 **PARTICIPANTS**









SPECIFIC DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION PROGRAMS PARTICIPANTS

2,069

SCHOOLS TOTAL

PARTICIPANTS

203 REGISTERED COACHES

129 **REGISTERED REFEREES**

VOLUNTEERS

OTHER FORMATS

FUTSAL 75 **PARTICIPANTS**



SOCIAL 1,299 **PARTICIPANTS**



MALE



COMMUNITY EVENTS &

0

PROMOTIONAL EXPERIENCES 1,208 **PARTICIPANTS**