

# Leadership tools help women climb the sporting corporate ladder

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**F**unded by the Department of Planning and Community Development (Sport and Recreation Victoria), VicSport has been supporting and advocating in a leadership capacity for women's sport since May 2008. In the past year, a number of key initiatives and programs have been implemented.

To determine VicSport's contribution, a women's advisory group consisting of successful and influential female representatives working within the sports sector was established.

With a shared vision for the future of women's sport, the group aims to enhance the profile and position of women's sport and women in sport. By identifying issues, barriers and enablers that assist in the development of strategies for progress and by providing support, information and training opportunities for professional development, this group is making its mark.

In order to achieve these objectives VicSport has established a number of key projects including the Female Administrators' Network (FAN). FAN consists of over 280 female project officers and administrators working across the sport and active recreation sector.

Meeting quarterly, FAN provides a formalised networking opportunity for members to share information and experiences. Each session also features a topic of interest for participants to discuss in an interactive workshop environment. To date meetings held have focused on personal strengths, goal setting, confidence building and career direction.

In January 2009, VicSport partnered with Cricket Victoria to discuss Good Governance (working on and with boards). Kate Don (VicSport) outlined findings from her VicHealth Good Governance Project and a panel of experts including Sue Crow

(Netball Victoria CEO), Lois Appleby (past CEO of Tourism Victoria), Julie Savage (Women's Cricket Advisory Committee and Australian representative) and Kate Roffey (previous VicSport CEO, now with Tennis Australia) shared their journey into board positions.

Appropriately, the session was held against the backdrop of a women's Twenty20 match at the MCG. Unfortunately the Network's support wasn't enough to get the

June, September and December. Contributions from members are encouraged and welcomed.

VicSport's is also about to launch a new and exciting program in this sector. The Professional Development and Mentoring Program is aimed at females working in middle management positions within State Sports Associations who aspire to become the next generation of senior managers.

The program covers a range of topics aimed at improving fundamental sports management and leadership skills and will be delivered by high-level managers and CEOs working in the industry. The sessions will be kept small (12 participants) to encourage an interactive and productive learning environment.

Upon completion of the course, each participant will be matched with a suitable mentor within the business or sport sector to assist in their ongoing professional development.

Participants will be encouraged to apply learnings from the course within their own organisation. Professional development topics will include, but are not limited to: finance/budgeting, human resource management, professional writing, strategic planning, business communication and governance.

**For further information about how to get involved in any of these programs, contact Amber Bleechmore, VicSport's Women in Sport Project Officer either on phone: 03 9926 1373, email: [amberb@vicsport.asn.au](mailto:amberb@vicsport.asn.au) or website: [www.vicsport.asn.au/womens\\_sport](http://www.vicsport.asn.au/womens_sport)**



Victorian Spirit over the line against Western Fury however the day was a great success. VicSport is now partnering with Netball Victoria to coordinate a similar session entitled Managing Career Breaks on May 25, prior to a Melbourne Vixens match at HiSense Arena.

An effective means of communicating and promoting to the FAN membership base and other interested community members is through VicSport's Women In Sport e-news (WISe-news). This electronic document produced every quarter highlights and supports women's participation programs, showcases a variety of sports, athlete profiles and provides information on relevant, current and topical issues. Editions are released each March,