



AFL BARWON MEDIA RELEASE

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AFL BARWON ALL ABILITIES FOOTBALL PARTICIPATION PATHWAY EXPANSION

AFL Barwon is proud to announce the expansion of the All Abilities Football participation pathway within the Barwon region.

Building on the success of the inaugural Kardinia Park Stadium Trust AFL Barwon All Abilities Football Netball League season, commencing in 2023, the 2024 season started in incredibly fashion with Round 1 of the Senior division, being played under lights at GMHBA Stadium on Saturday 27th May 2024.

This evening offered an exceptional opportunity for All Abilities Footballers from the Clubs of Bell Park FNC, Geelong West FNC, Newcomb FNC & St. Joseph's FNC, to pull on their Club colours in front of a crowd over a 1,000 spectators throughout the evening.

Today's announcement builds on this inaugural season, and cements a participation pathway that provides equitable and complete opportunities for more members of our local community. The establishment of a Youth All Abilities Football competition, commencing in late June 2024 will provide more participants the opportunity to play Football, within their local community.

The competition in 2024 will run for four-weeks, and provide a positive, safe and inclusive immersion to community football, for many who haven't play nor had the opportunity to participate previously. In 2025, this Youth competition will expand to provide more game time opportunity for all participants.

This pathway expansion would not be possible without the support of the Victorian Government through Sport & Recreation Victoria funding that has supported AFL Victoria, in partnership with AFL Barwon, to deliver this participation opportunity. This funding supports those with an intellectual disability, to ensure equitable opportunities are possible throughout our region

The immediate expansion of this participation pathway is to provide sustainability support and growth opportunities to the successful inaugural All Abilities FNL and ensure the Barwon region offers equitable opportunities for All Abilities Footballers, across all age groups.

AFL Barwon is extremely grateful of the support from AFL Victoria and Leisure Networks, who have tirelessly contributed to developing this significant pathway expansion, to ensure that more equitable opportunities within our local community.

For more information, please visit www.aflbarwon.com.au/all-abilities-clubs.

