

# Ali - Setting An Example For My Children

"It's really uncomfortable for women in football change rooms. There's only one toilet with a door, the rest are urinals and no one showers at the rooms after games as they are all open communal showers. This definitely limits socialising opportunities after a game".

## Ali's Story

I am a married mother to two boys and a girl. I have recently chosen to be at home for the children while my husband works full time. This year I decided to play women's football for our local team. I was always told I was a bit of a 'tom boy' growing up and loved my sport. In recent years after having children I hadn't participated in team sports but now I have decided to give footy a go. I love having a choice between football and netball.

My husband supports me to train two nights per week and he often brings the children up to the club to watch training and have dinner after training with my team and their families/partners. My eldest son is in grade three and at first he found it really difficult to comprehend me playing football as he was certain football was a boy's sport. After having my photo in the paper and us having conversations at the dinner table he is now proud as punch to tell everyone about mum playing footy.

## Attitudes and Behaviours

It is important to me that women and girls can participate in sport or social activities with the appropriate resources and facilities such as change spaces that allow privacy and multiple toilets with lockable doors. I feel that the people around us, including older members of our family and some educators are influencing our children's attitudes and beliefs about gender roles and norms.

I am hearing a lot of negative about women playing football or other male dominated sports, particularly from men of older generations and the comments make me furious because I believe that woman can do, be and play anything they choose to and shouldn't be belittled for that.

## Needs & Expectations

It's important that I am supported to participate in sport with the adequate physical facilities such as individual toilets and showers for privacy.

I need to be a good role model for my children so they can see that both men and women, boys and girls can participate in sport and social life however they choose. I need to feel included at the club I choose to play sport at by training and playing on the same days as the men do.

