

2024-2025 FAIR ACCESS SCORECARD



CITY OF MELBOURNE

Fair Access Policy

Fair Access is an initiative aimed at providing fair and equitable access to increase the participation of women and girls in sport and active recreation in the City of Melbourne.

The Fair Access Sport and Recreation Allocation and Use Policy seeks to eliminate gender inequality in the allocation and use of community sport and recreation facilities, while the Action Plan outlines high impact initiatives to achieve Fair Access improvements at sport and recreation facilities in the City of Melbourne.

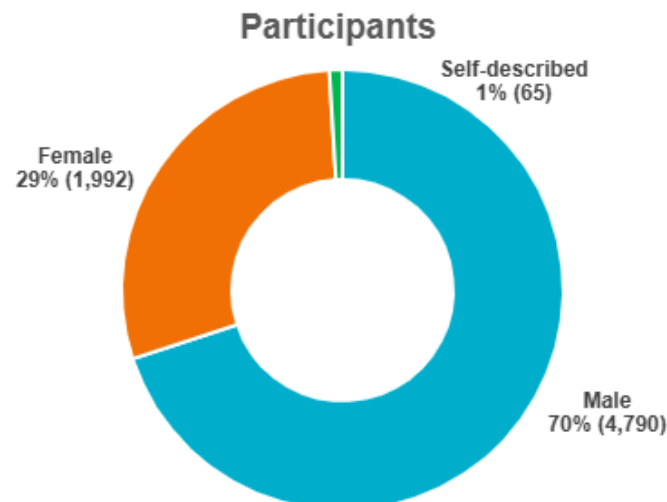
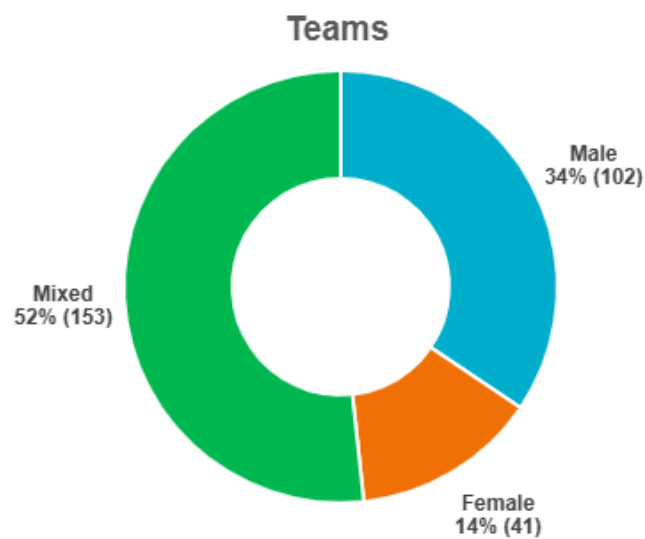
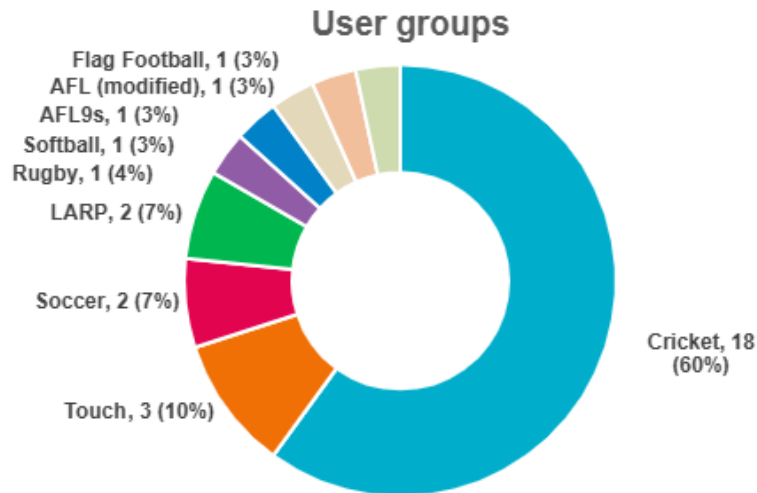
The City of Melbourne's Fair Access work focuses on creating improved conditions that support user groups in the municipality with growing female participation.

This first Fair Access Scorecard establishes a baseline and sets targets and indicators, which will be reported against in subsequent years. Data has not been collected historically and accuracy is expected to improve further as user groups are becoming accustomed to reporting processes.

Baseline Data - Community Sport

Approximately 40 sporting fields were available for recurring bookings by community sporting groups during the 2024-2025 summer and 2025 winter season. These fields are located in seven City of Melbourne parks, including Royal Park, Fawkner Park, Princes Park, Ron Barassi Senior Park and JJ Holland Park.

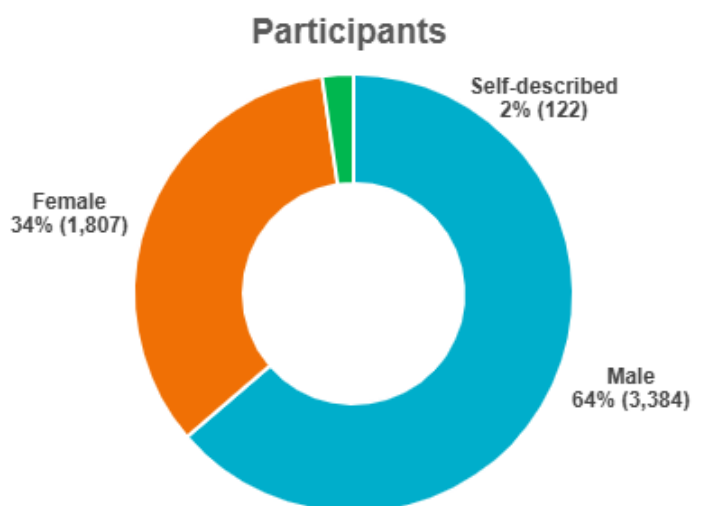
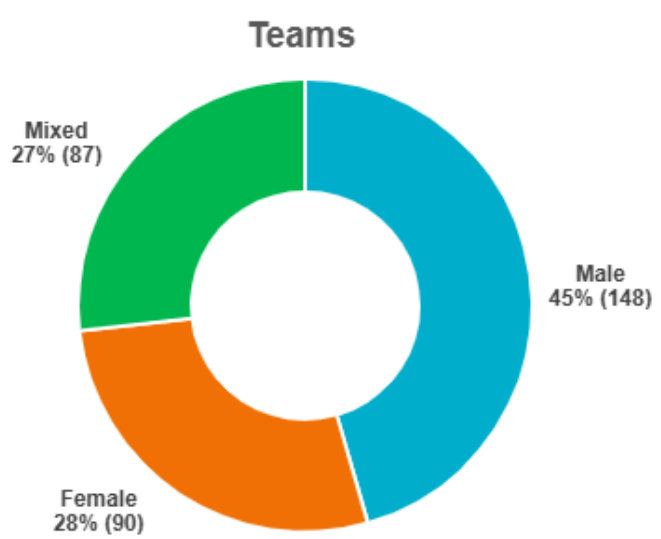
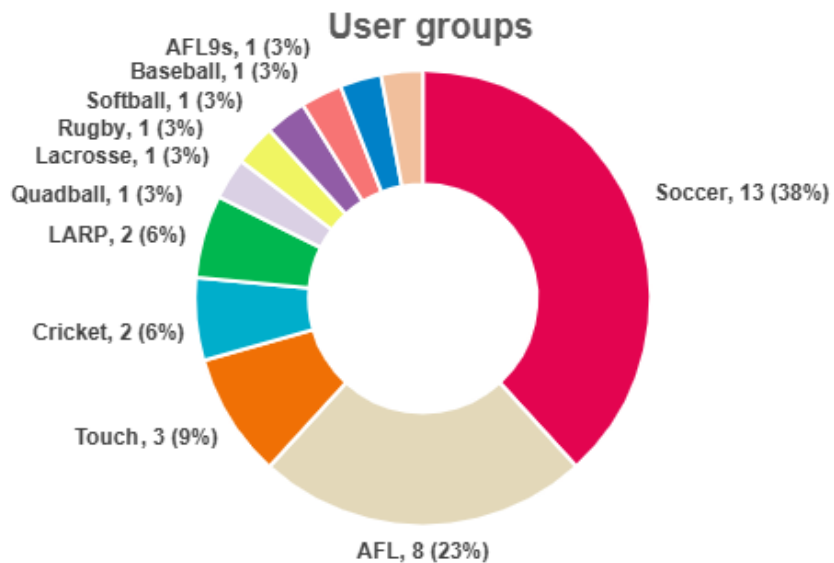
Summer



Softball and AFL (modified) had the highest proportion of females by sport, whilst Cricket and LARP (Live Action Role Play) attracted the lowest proportion of female participants by sport.

Baseline Data - Community Sport

Winter

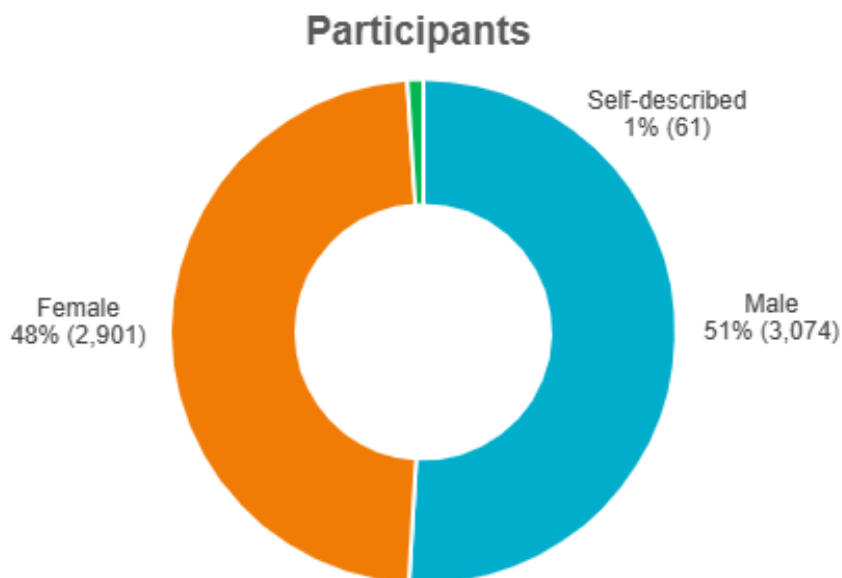
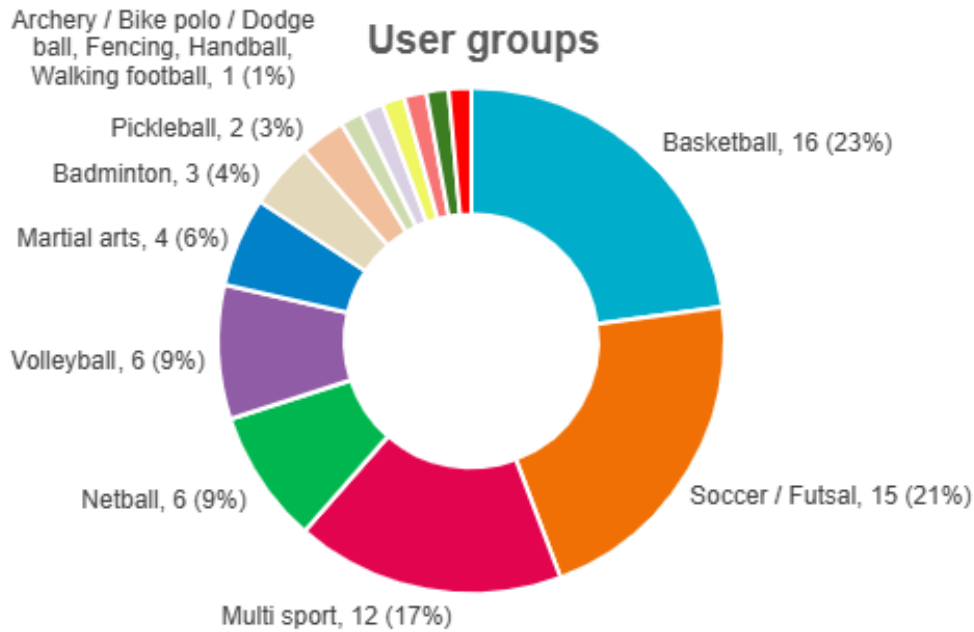


Softball and Touch had the highest proportion of females by sport, whilst Cricket and Rugby attracted the lowest percentage of female participants by sport.



Baseline Data - Recreation Centres

Sport and recreation groups also applied for annual access in 2025 to sports courts at five recreation centres in the municipality, including Carlton Baths, North Melbourne Recreation Centre and Kensington Community Aquatic and Recreation Centre.



Female participation at recreation centres is close to being on par with male participation numbers.

Targets

The following targets have been set for the period from 1 July 2025 until 30 June 2029, which aligns with timeframe of City of Melbourne’s Council Plan:

- Achieve a minimum 10% increase against 2025-26 female participation levels at community sporting fields. (This target equates to an additional 380 women and girls against the 2025-26 baseline year.)
- Achieve and maintain a minimum of 50% overall female participation at recreation centres.

Progress against these targets will be reporting on future annual Fair Access scorecards.

Key Indicators

The Fair Access Action Plan outlines City of Melbourne’s initiatives to support an increase in female participation with progress being measured through the following five indicators:

Complete
 In progress
 Not Applicable

		Actuals vs Aim
Gender participation data	User groups who provided gender participation data under the new Fair Access process.	79% - 100% (119 / 134)
Supporting user groups	Percentage of 2025 winter community sport user groups that meetings occurred with, to share information and provide support to assist with increasing female participation. Regular annual meetings with summer and recreation user groups are scheduled in the upcoming period.	74% - 75% (25 / 34)
Female leadership training	Female leadership training sessions facilitated for user groups annually (year 2-3 action).	N/A - 2
‘Come and Try’ sessions	‘Come and Try’ sessions for women and girls hosted and promoted by the City of Melbourne. A total 422 people (89% female) attended sessions, including during International Women’s Day, This Girl Can and Seniors Festival.	27 - 2
Training and education	Number of training and education opportunities provided for user groups on how to create an inclusive and welcoming environment. Examples include learning opportunities about inclusive coaching and child safety.	4 - 2

Highlights

Selected highlights for the reporting period include:

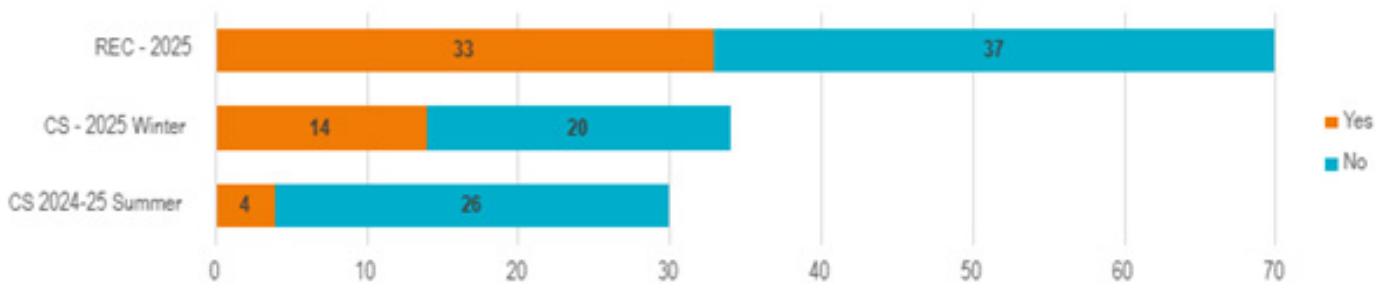
Newsletters	'Around The Grounds' and 'The Learning Locker' newsletters issued to user groups that included a range of free training and education opportunities to strengthen community sports clubs and advancing fair access for women and girls.	8
Grants	Inclusion support and individual participation grants awarded to support community members with financial barriers with participating in sport and recreation opportunities.	19
Events promoted	Events promoted aimed at increasing the participation of women and girls, Examples include Riverslide school holidays girls program, IDAHOBIT Roller Disco and City Swimm(h)er.	22
Modified programs and activities	Modified programs and activities offered by user groups at City of Melbourne facilities. Examples include Community Street Soccer program, Melb-Hoop Social Basketball and Touch Rugby.	46
Social media / Role models	People who actively engaged with a National Volunteer Week social media campaign predominately focused on showcasing female role models in community sport in the City of Melbourne.	2790



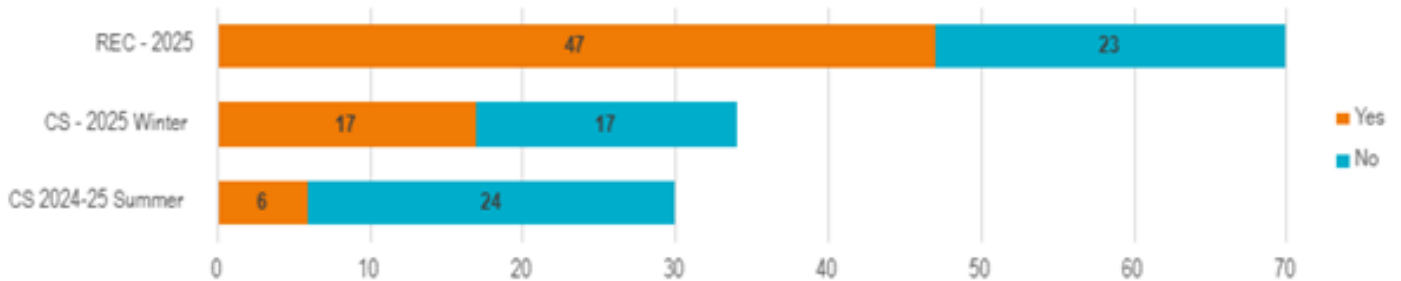
Fair Access Insights

Data collected from the 134 community sport (CS) and recreation centre (REC) user groups offers insights into current inclusion initiatives and female participation. Key insights are listed in the below graphs and will be used for future benchmarking purposes as well as to identify groups that may benefit from additional support.

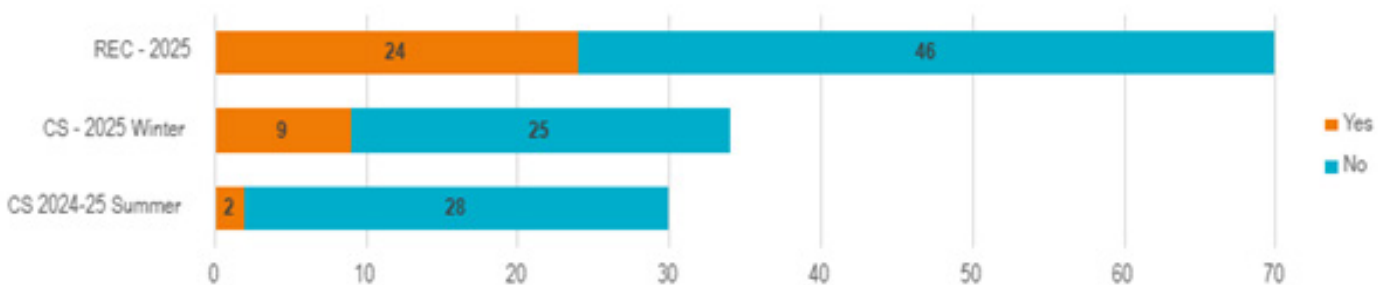
User groups that offer modified programs and activities



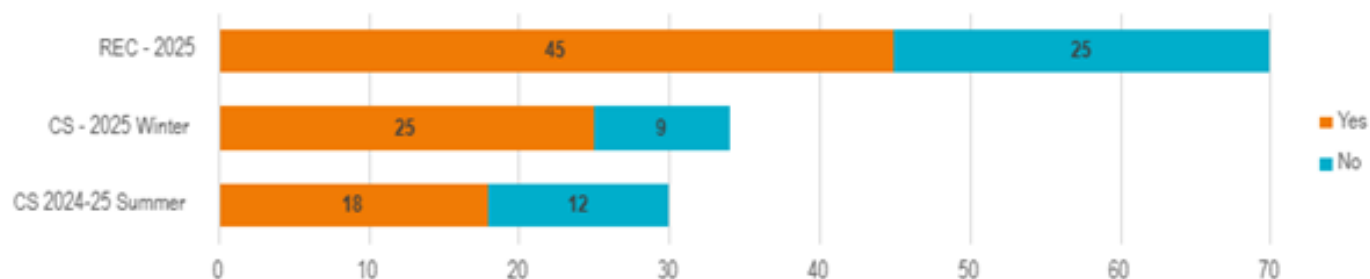
User groups with 40% or more women in leadership positions



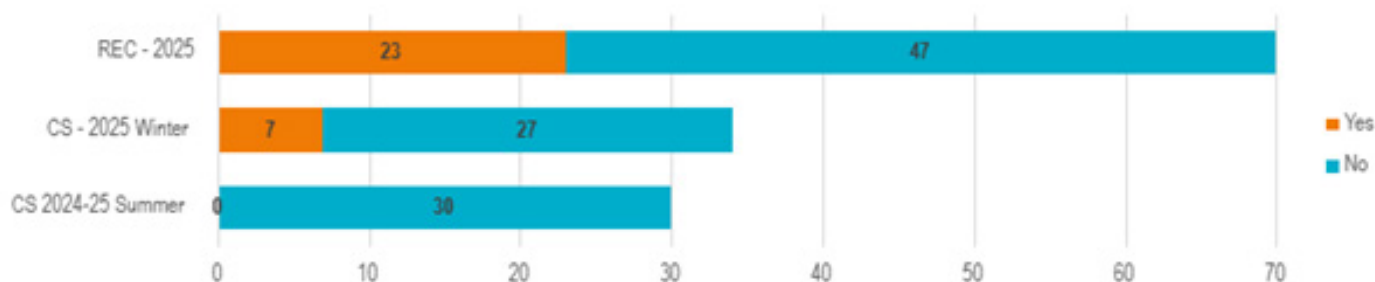
User groups that have undertaken diversity, equity and inclusion training



User groups that demonstrated equitable scheduling



Users groups that have a detailed Inclusion Action Plan



The community sport summer user groups are attracting the lowest proportion of females and are also scoring significantly lower on the above five inclusion initiatives than the winter groups and the recreation groups. It is recommended that summer user groups have a heightened focus on the development of inclusion action plans, undertaking inclusion training, growing the proportion of female leaders, offering more modified programs and activities, and equitable scheduling, in order to create supportive conditions aimed at increasing female participation levels.

Terminology

User groups: Refers to sporting clubs and organisations that use City of Melbourne community sport facilities and recreation centres. Some of these user groups apply and are granted access to multiple seasons or centres.

Teams: Relates to the estimated number of teams submitted as part of the user groups applications prior to the commencement of the allocation period. Teams are less applicable to Recreation Centre user groups and are therefore excluded.

Participants: Refers to the number of unique participants for recurring bookings during a regular week as estimated prior to the commencement of the allocation period. The data does not reflect the number of times that people participate per week. The actual number of participants varies from week-to-week and from what was anticipated pre-season commencement, hence participation number are indicative only.



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