



20
25 National
Participation

FOREWORD



NATIONAL PARTICIPATION REPORT

Football continues to be Australia's most powerful force for community connection, and the 2025 National Participation Report reflects a game that continues to grow from existing record highs.

Connecting Communities Through Football

In 2025, **1.93 million Australians participated in football across clubs, schools, social formats, futsal and inclusion programs**, proving that Football remains Australia's most participated team sport across every corner, culture and generation in Australia. This growth is driven by a nationwide network of **more than 3,300 community clubs** (of whom 2,219 take registration)*, supported by volunteers, coaches and referees who deliver football every day.

Our game unites Australians and creates belonging and a shared identity. Participation across social formats, schools and inclusion programs reflects football's unique role in supporting social cohesion, community wellbeing and lifelong engagement.

Facilities that Enable Participation

Across the country, community clubs are working tirelessly to meet rising demand, often within facilities that were not designed for today's participation levels or expectations.

Community clubs are under enormous pressure to accommodate the significant growth in football participation (particularly among women and girls), because of deteriorating facilities, rapid urban development limiting suitable greenfield spaces, and increasingly volatile weather events.

Quality pitches, lighting, changerooms and climate-resilient infrastructure are essential to sustaining growth, supporting inclusive participation, and ensuring safe environments for all. Strengthening community football infrastructure remains critical to enabling continued participation as outlined in our Securing Our Football Future policy platform.

Clear and Connected Pathways

Football's pathways, from schools and grassroots clubs through to elite and high-performance environments, are central to the game's continued success. **One of the most significant and encouraging trends in this report is the continued growth of women and girls' participation, which has reached 231,435 participants across outdoor, futsal and social formats.** This growth highlights the importance of clear, connected pathways that allow participants to enter, remain and progress in the game in ways that suit their ambitions and stages of life.

The launch of the Emerging Championships and the inaugural Australian Championship further strengthen this pathway, creating new national stages that connect community football to the professional and high-performance game while uniting generations of Australian football.

Looking to the Future

The year ahead is an exciting one for Australian football. The Matildas will compete on home soil at the AFC Women's Asian Cup, while the Socceroos will represent the nation on the global stage at the FIFA World Cup. These moments inspire participation, strengthen national pride and connect grassroots football to the world stage.

This report celebrates what football already delivers for Australia — and reinforces the importance of continuing to invest in the people, infrastructure and pathways that will shape the future of the game. With the right support, football will continue to grow as a sport that reflects Australia and brings communities together.

Yours in football,



**Heather Garriock
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF FOOTBALL AND DEPUTY CEO
FOOTBALL AUSTRALIA**

*Of these, 2,219 clubs are actively collecting registrations for competitions sanctioned by Football Australia. As part of our ongoing improvements to the PlayFootball platform, we will be completing an audit of clubs that are not currently collecting registrations, with the support of our Member Federations. The 2,219 clubs do not yet include futsal, community, and private academies into the PlayFootball registration platform.

1% Growth on 2024

WOMEN & GIRLS PARTICIPATION 231,435

INCLUDES OUTDOOR,
REGISTERED FUTSAL & SOCIAL

4%
growth
on 2024

LEAGUES

TOTAL PARTICIPATION
513,610

INCLUDES SCHOOLS, COMMUNITY EVENTS & PROMOTIONAL EXPERIENCES

5%
growth
on 2024

OUTDOOR AFFILIATED FOOTBALL

651,624 PARTICIPANTS

2%
growth
on 2024

2,219 CLUBS



484,552
MALE
(74% OF TOTAL)



166,469
FEMALE
(26% OF TOTAL)

291,864 PARTICIPANTS



YOUTH 197,599 PARTICIPANTS



SENIOR 162,161 PARTICIPANTS



68,655 REGISTERED COACHES

75% MALE
25% FEMALE



13,815 REGISTERED REFEREES

86% MALE
14% FEMALE

29,986 VOLUNTEERS

51% MALE
49% FEMALE

SPECIFIC DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION PROGRAMS PARTICIPANTS

24,286

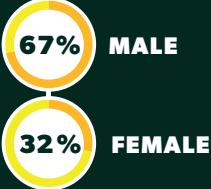
Includes programs specifically for Cultural and Linguistically Diverse Communities, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander & All Ability participants

OTHER FORMATS

FUTSAL 63,425 PARTICIPANTS



SOCIAL 180,099 PARTICIPANTS



138,727
FOOTBALL AUSTRALIA
SPORTING SCHOOLS
+
401,395
OTHER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Includes school competitions and school participation programs

=
SCHOOLS TOTAL
540,122
PARTICIPANTS

COMMUNITY EVENTS &
PROMOTIONAL EXPERIENCES
366,898
PARTICIPANTS

*Total numbers include male, female and gender unspecified. Some percentages may not total 100% due to undisclosed gender participant data submitted at the point of registration.

2025 NSW SUMMARY



TOTAL PARTICIPATION

617,444

**WOMEN & GIRLS
PARTICIPATION
98,135**

INCLUDES OUTDOOR,
REGISTERED FUTSAL & SOCIAL

1%
growth
on 2024

LEAGUES

**TOTAL PARTICIPATION
171,260**

INCLUDES SCHOOLS, COMMUNITY EVENTS & PROMOTIONAL EXPERIENCES

OUTDOOR AFFILIATED FOOTBALL

**261,221
PARTICIPANTS**



**190,815
MALE**
(73% OF TOTAL)

**717
CLUBS**



**70,260
FEMALE**
(27% OF TOTAL)

**112,196
PARTICIPANTS**



MALE
81,248



FEMALE
30,911

**YOUTH
76,176
PARTICIPANTS**



MALE
53,390



FEMALE
22,768

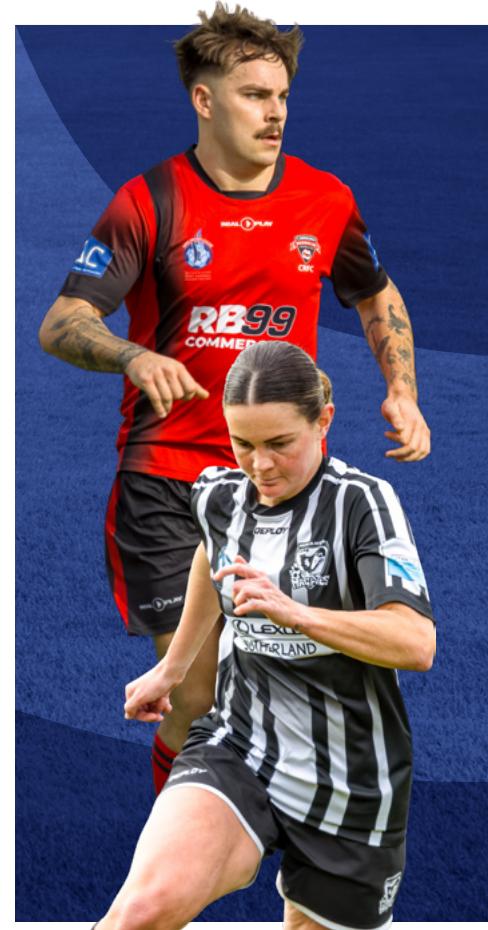
**SENIOR
72,849
PARTICIPANTS**



MALE
56,177



FEMALE
16,581



**32,811
REGISTERED COACHES**
69% MALE
31% FEMALE

**6,356
REGISTERED REFEREES**
86% MALE
14% FEMALE

**6,925
VOLUNTEERS**
58% MALE
42% FEMALE

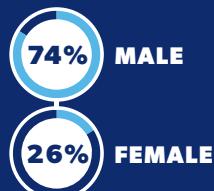
**SPECIFIC DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION
PROGRAMS PARTICIPANTS**

1,283

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

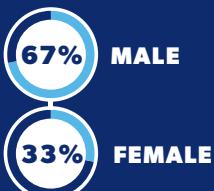
OTHER FORMATS

**FUTSAL
5,230
PARTICIPANTS**



**74% MALE
26% FEMALE**

**SOCIAL
79,929
PARTICIPANTS**



**67% MALE
33% FEMALE**

**SCHOOLS TOTAL
117,003
PARTICIPANTS**

Includes Football Australia Sporting Schools, school competitions and school participation programs

**COMMUNITY EVENTS &
PROMOTIONAL EXPERIENCES
103,981
PARTICIPANTS**

2025 VIC SUMMARY



TOTAL PARTICIPATION

359,599

**WOMEN & GIRLS
PARTICIPATION
30,928**

INCLUDES OUTDOOR,
REGISTERED FUTSAL & SOCIAL

14%
growth
on 2024

LEAGUES

TOTAL PARTICIPATION

90,300

INCLUDES SCHOOLS, COMMUNITY EVENTS & PROMOTIONAL EXPERIENCES

OUTDOOR AFFILIATED FOOTBALL

**96,095
PARTICIPANTS**

5%
growth
on 2024

**353
CLUBS**

**72,339
MALE**
(75% OF TOTAL)

**23,616
FEMALE**
(25% OF TOTAL)

**39,827
PARTICIPANTS**

77%
MALE
30,539

23%
FEMALE
9,210

**YOUTH
36,938
PARTICIPANTS**

73%
MALE
27,149

26%
FEMALE
9,764

**SENIOR
19,330
PARTICIPANTS**

76%
MALE
14,651

24%
FEMALE
4,642



6,522

REGISTERED COACHES
85% MALE
15% FEMALE

1,232

REGISTERED REFEREES
91% MALE
9% FEMALE

4,447

VOLUNTEERS
50% MALE
49% FEMALE

**SPECIFIC DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION
PROGRAMS PARTICIPANTS**

2,957

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

OTHER FORMATS

**FUTSAL
38,125
PARTICIPANTS**

66% MALE
34% FEMALE

**SOCIAL
16,930
PARTICIPANTS**

61% MALE
39% FEMALE

**SCHOOLS TOTAL
136,328
PARTICIPANTS**

Includes Football Australia Sporting Schools, school competitions
and school participation programs

**COMMUNITY EVENTS &
PROMOTIONAL EXPERIENCES
56,963
PARTICIPANTS**

2025 QLD SUMMARY



TOTAL PARTICIPATION

296,024

1%

GROWTH

**WOMEN & GIRLS
PARTICIPATION
37,946**

INCLUDES OUTDOOR,
REGISTERED FUTSAL & SOCIAL

LEAGUES

TOTAL PARTICIPATION

13,317

INCLUDES SCHOOLS, COMMUNITY EVENTS & PROMOTIONAL EXPERIENCES

OUTDOOR AFFILIATED FOOTBALL

**104,690
PARTICIPANTS**

1%
growth
on 2024

**313
CLUBS**

**80,182
MALE**
(77% OF TOTAL)

**24,355
FEMALE**
(23% OF TOTAL)

**50,872
PARTICIPANTS**

81%

19%

MALE
41,002

FEMALE
9,813

**YOUTH
29,694
PARTICIPANTS**

75%

25%

MALE
22,311

FEMALE
7,332

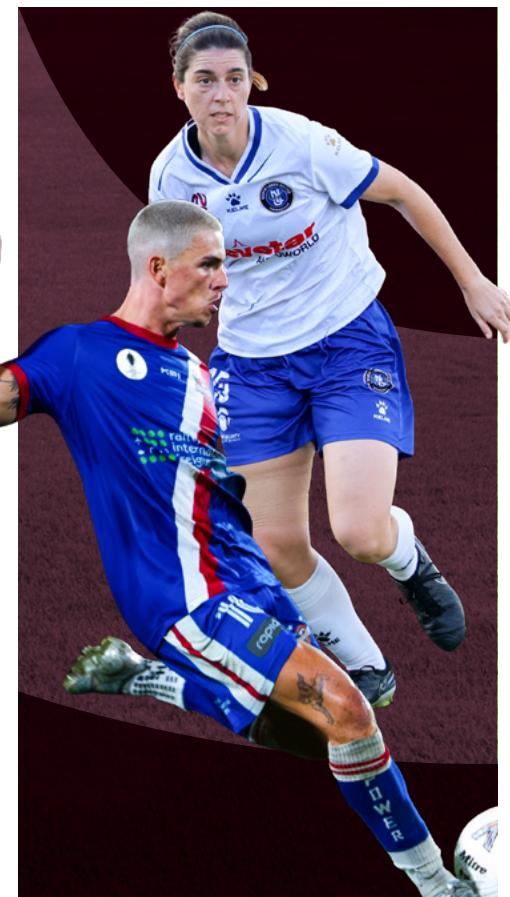
**SENIOR
24,124
PARTICIPANTS**

70%

30%

MALE
16,869

FEMALE
7,210



**9,636
REGISTERED COACHES**

84% MALE
16% FEMALE

**2,989
REGISTERED REFEREES**

84% MALE
15% FEMALE

**8,772
VOLUNTEERS**

46% MALE
54% FEMALE

**SPECIFIC DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION
PROGRAMS PARTICIPANTS**

4,452

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

OTHER FORMATS

**FUTSAL
12,695
PARTICIPANTS**

**78%
MALE**
**22%
FEMALE**

**SOCIAL
39,740
PARTICIPANTS**

**73%
MALE**
**27%
FEMALE**

**SCHOOLS TOTAL
91,713
PARTICIPANTS**

Includes Football Australia Sporting Schools, school competitions and school participation programs

**COMMUNITY EVENTS &
PROMOTIONAL EXPERIENCES
21,337
PARTICIPANTS**

2025 WA SUMMARY



TOTAL PARTICIPATION

174,710

**WOMEN & GIRLS
PARTICIPATION**
15,043

INCLUDES OUTDOOR,

19%
growth
on 2024

.A LEAGUES

TOTAL PARTICIPATION

43,760

INCLUDES SCHOOLS, COMMUNITY EVENTS & PROMOTIONAL EXPERIENCES

OUTDOOR AFFILIATED FOOTBALL

**56,504
PARTICIPANTS**

10%
growth
on 2024

**205
CLUBS**



**44,292
MALE**
(78% OF TOTAL)



**12,177
FEMALE**
(22% OF TOTAL)



**25,823
PARTICIPANTS**



MALE

20,276



FEMALE

5,538

**YOUTH
17,810
PARTICIPANTS**



MALE

13,646



FEMALE

4,155

**SENIOR
12,871
PARTICIPANTS**



MALE

10,370



FEMALE

2,484

**4,878
REGISTERED COACHES**

78% MALE
22% FEMALE

**664
REGISTERED REFEREES**

88% MALE
12% FEMALE

**2,250
VOLUNTEERS**

42% MALE
58% FEMALE

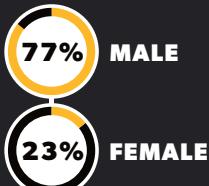
**SPECIFIC DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION
PROGRAMS PARTICIPANTS**

7,669

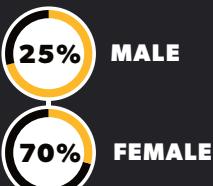
Includes programs specifically for Cultural and Linguistically Diverse Communities, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander & All Ability participants

OTHER FORMATS

**FUTSAL
86
PARTICIPANTS**



**SOCIAL
4,055
PARTICIPANTS**



**SCHOOLS TOTAL
77,237
PARTICIPANTS**

Includes Football Australia Sporting Schools, school competitions and school participation programs

**COMMUNITY EVENTS &
PROMOTIONAL EXPERIENCES
21,367
PARTICIPANTS**

2025 NNSW SUMMARY



TOTAL PARTICIPATION

178,838

20%
GROWTH

**WOMEN & GIRLS
PARTICIPATION
24,096**

INCLUDES OUTDOOR,
REGISTERED FUTSAL & SOCIAL

2%
growth
on 2024

LEAGUES

TOTAL PARTICIPATION

64,606

INCLUDES SCHOOLS, COMMUNITY EVENTS & PROMOTIONAL EXPERIENCES

OUTDOOR AFFILIATED FOOTBALL

**60,556
PARTICIPANTS**

**205
CLUBS**



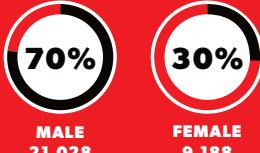
**42,532
MALE**
(70% OF TOTAL)



**17,977
FEMALE**
(30% OF TOTAL)

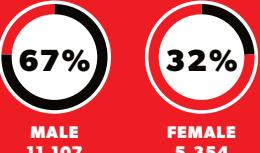


**30,233
PARTICIPANTS**



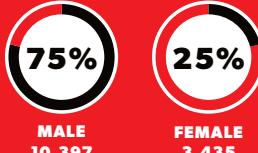
MALE 21,028
FEMALE 9,188

**YOUTH
16,475
PARTICIPANTS**



MALE 11,107
FEMALE 5,354

**SENIOR
13,848
PARTICIPANTS**



MALE 10,397
FEMALE 3,435

**6,832
REGISTERED COACHES**
72% MALE
28% FEMALE

**958
REGISTERED REFEREES**
87% MALE
13% FEMALE

**3,586
VOLUNTEERS**
53% MALE
47% FEMALE

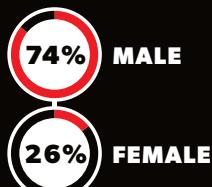
SPECIFIC DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION PROGRAMS PARTICIPANTS

1,318

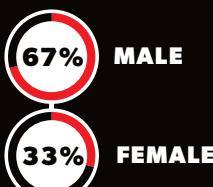
Includes programs specifically for Cultural and Linguistically Diverse
Communities, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander & All Ability participants

OTHER FORMATS

**FUTSAL
148
PARTICIPANTS**



**SOCIAL
18,537
PARTICIPANTS**



**SCHOOLS TOTAL
38,403
PARTICIPANTS**

Includes Football Australia Sporting Schools, school competitions
and school participation programs

**COMMUNITY EVENTS &
PROMOTIONAL EXPERIENCES
48,500
PARTICIPANTS**

2025 SA SUMMARY



TOTAL PARTICIPATION

139,388

10%
GROWTH

WOMEN & GIRLS PARTICIPATION

9,409

INCLUDES OUTDOOR,
REGISTERED FUTSAL & SOCIAL

12%
growth
on 2024

LEAGUES

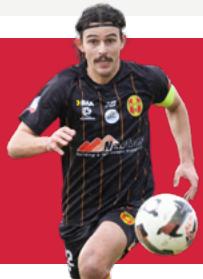
TOTAL PARTICIPATION

61,990

INCLUDES SCHOOLS, COMMUNITY EVENTS & PROMOTIONAL EXPERIENCES

OUTDOOR AFFILIATED FOOTBALL

32,072 PARTICIPANTS



25,424
MALE
(79% OF TOTAL)

314 CLUBS



6,628
FEMALE
(21% OF TOTAL)

10,854 PARTICIPANTS



MALE
8,682



FEMALE
2,169

YOUTH 10,157 PARTICIPANTS



MALE
7,612



FEMALE
2,539

SENIOR 11,061 PARTICIPANTS



MALE
9,130



FEMALE
1,920



4,527 REGISTERED COACHES

88% MALE
12% FEMALE

574 REGISTERED REFEREES

86% MALE
13% FEMALE

1,400 VOLUNTEERS

51% MALE
49% FEMALE

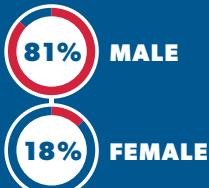
SPECIFIC DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION PROGRAMS PARTICIPANTS

1,013

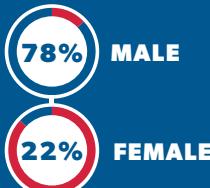
Includes programs specifically for Cultural and Linguistically Diverse
Communities, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander & All Ability participants

OTHER FORMATS

FUTSAL 804 PARTICIPANTS



SOCIAL 11,991 PARTICIPANTS



SCHOOLS TOTAL 33,720 PARTICIPANTS

Includes Football Australia Sporting Schools, school competitions
and school participation programs

COMMUNITY EVENTS & PROMOTIONAL EXPERIENCES 53,287 PARTICIPANTS

2025 ACT SUMMARY



TOTAL PARTICIPATION

40,311

**WOMEN & GIRLS
PARTICIPATION**
8,194

INCLUDES OUTDOOR, REGIS-

15%
growth
on 2024

LEAGUES
TOTAL PARTICIPATION
2,030

OUTDOOR AFFILIATED FOOTBALL

**19,425
PARTICIPANTS**



**13,748
MALE**
(71% OF TOTAL)

**50
CLUBS**



**5,646
FEMALE**
(29% OF TOTAL)

**9,722
PARTICIPANTS**



MALE
7,101



FEMALE
2,609

**YOUTH
5,421
PARTICIPANTS**



MALE
3,849



FEMALE
1,567

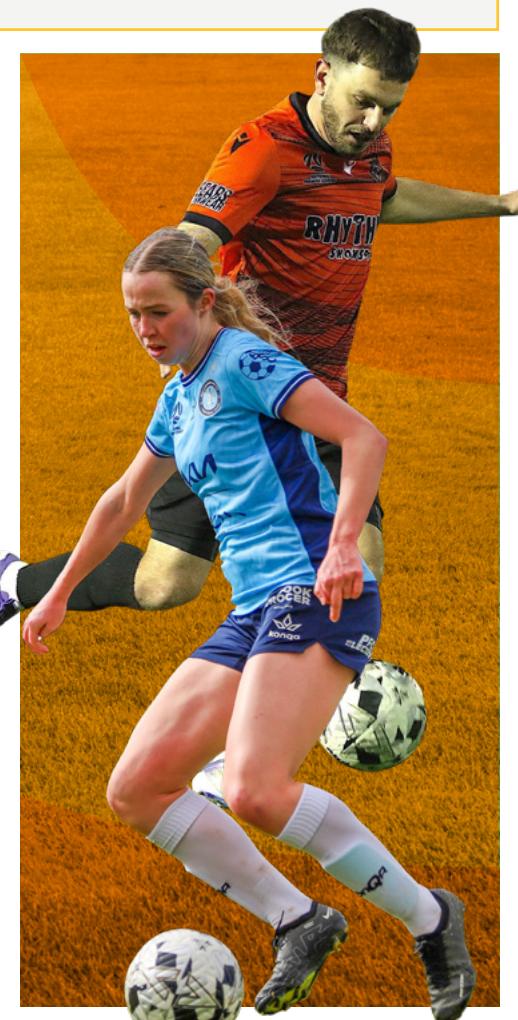
**SENIOR
4,282
PARTICIPANTS**



MALE
2,798



FEMALE
1,470



**1,244
REGISTERED COACHES**

83% MALE
16% FEMALE

**684
REGISTERED REFEREES**

74% MALE
26% FEMALE

**1,464
VOLUNTEERS**

47% MALE
53% FEMALE

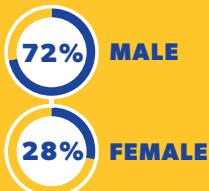
**SPECIFIC DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION
PROGRAMS PARTICIPANTS**

15

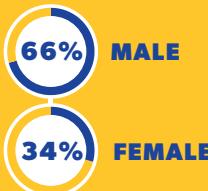
Includes programs specifically for Cultural and Linguistically Diverse Communities, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander & All Ability participants

OTHER FORMATS

**FUTSAL
3,880
PARTICIPANTS**



**SOCIAL
4,329
PARTICIPANTS**



**SCHOOLS TOTAL
1,404
PARTICIPANTS**

Includes Football Australia Sporting Schools, school competitions and school participation programs

**COMMUNITY EVENTS &
PROMOTIONAL EXPERIENCES
7,866
PARTICIPANTS**

2025 TAS SUMMARY



FOOTBALL
TASMANIA

TOTAL PARTICIPATION

41,395

32%
GROWTH

WOMEN & GIRLS PARTICIPATION
5,318

1%
growth
on 2024

INCLUDES OUTDOOR, REGISTERED FUTSAL & SOCIAL

OUTDOOR AFFILIATED FOOTBALL

15,193
PARTICIPANTS

4%
growth
on 2024

44
CLUBS



11,008
MALE
(72% OF TOTAL)



4,174
FEMALE
(27% OF TOTAL)

9,201
PARTICIPANTS



MALE

6,737



FEMALE

2,461

YOUTH
3,628
PARTICIPANTS



MALE

2,558



FEMALE

1,066

SENIOR
2,364
PARTICIPANTS



MALE

1,713



FEMALE

647



1,810
REGISTERED COACHES

70% MALE
29% FEMALE

261
REGISTERED REFEREES

89% MALE
11% FEMALE

762
VOLUNTEERS

54% MALE
45% FEMALE

SPECIFIC DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION PROGRAMS PARTICIPANTS

37

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

OTHER FORMATS

FUTSAL
2,350
PARTICIPANTS



SOCIAL
2,670
PARTICIPANTS



SCHOOLS TOTAL
8,312
PARTICIPANTS

Includes Football Australia Sporting Schools, school competitions and school participation programs

COMMUNITY EVENTS & PROMOTIONAL EXPERIENCES
10,000
PARTICIPANTS

2025 NT SUMMARY



FOOTBALL
NORTHERN
TERRITORY

TOTAL PARTICIPATION

24,854

9%

GROWTH

WOMEN & GIRLS PARTICIPATION **2,366**

5%
growth
on 2024

INCLUDES OUTDOOR, REGISTERED FUTSAL & SOCIAL

OUTDOOR AFFILIATED FOOTBALL

5,868
PARTICIPANTS

2%
growth
on 2024

18
CLUBS

4,212
MALE
(72% OF TOTAL)

1,636
FEMALE
(28% OF TOTAL)

3,136
PARTICIPANTS

71%

MALE

2,225

29%

FEMALE

906

YOUTH
1,300
PARTICIPANTS

80%

MALE

1,034

20%

FEMALE

263

SENIOR
1,432
PARTICIPANTS

67%

MALE

953

33%

FEMALE

467

395

REGISTERED COACHES

79% MALE
21% FEMALE



97

REGISTERED REFEREES

87% MALE
13% FEMALE



380

VOLUNTEERS

79% MALE
21% FEMALE

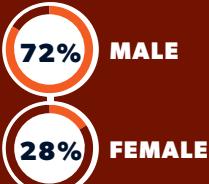
SPECIFIC DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION PROGRAMS PARTICIPANTS

5,542

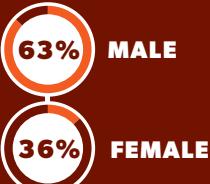
Includes programs specifically for Cultural and Linguistically Diverse Communities, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander & All Ability participants

OTHER FORMATS

FUTSAL
107
PARTICIPANTS



SOCIAL
1,918
PARTICIPANTS



SCHOOLS TOTAL
8,107
PARTICIPANTS

Includes Football Australia Sporting Schools, school competitions and school participation programs

COMMUNITY EVENTS & PROMOTIONAL EXPERIENCES
2,440
PARTICIPANTS