

TASMANIAN NETBALL LEAGUE 30TH ANNIVERSARY
SPEECH BY
HER EXCELLENCY PROFESSOR THE HONOURABLE KATE WARNER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
WREST POINT CONVENTION CENTRE, SATURDAY 9 SEPTEMBER 2017

Good evening everyone and welcome to the Tasmanian Netball League 30th Anniversary Dinner.

I begin by paying my respects to the traditional and original owners of this land – to pay respect to those that have passed before us and to acknowledge today's Tasmanian Aboriginal community who are the custodians of this land.

I would like to acknowledge among you:

Netball Tasmania President, Liz Banks; Netball Tasmania Chief Executive Officer Aaron Pidgeon; RACT Insurance CEO, Trent Sayers; Collingwood Magpies Netball Head Coach, Kristy Keppich-Birrell; Aus Diamonds/Collingwood Magpies Netball Player, Maddi Robinson; Aus Diamonds/Collingwood Magpies Netball Player, Caitlin Thwaites; Netball Australia Chair, Anne-Marie Corboy; Gerathy Media sponsors, Richard and Maria Gerathy; Sport & Recreation Tasmania's Helen Langenberg; Netball Tasmania Life Member, Marj Kerlake; Netball Tasmania Life Members, Judy Headlam and Joy Symes; Netball Tasmania Board Member, Rachael Stebbings.

I have been asked to speak to you very briefly tonight with a focus on Women's Sport and the importance/value it has within our community.

As Governor I have a very keen interest in promoting gender equity and so this topic is very close to my heart.

I attended a breakfast a little while ago where Susan Alberti, Australian businesswoman, philanthropist and former Vice president of the Western Bulldogs Football club spoke and was incredibly moved by Sue's story and struck by her passion for women in the AFL.¹ This is an arena that women have had to push for many years to be included in.

It was not so long ago that alarming gender inequity in coverage of women's sport was reported in April 2015 by Stephanie Chalkley-Rhoden for the ABC.²

The article reported that:

"Women feature in only 7 per cent of sports programming in Australia, representing a backwards step compared to a decade ago and highlighting a significant gender gap in a country where sport is king, a new report shows. The Towards a Level Playing Field: Sport and Gender in Australian Media report compiled for the Australian Sports Commission (ASC) found there was a stark difference in the coverage of male and female sport on television. This was despite "the ongoing successes and strong participation levels of women in sport", according to the report.

It found coverage of male sport made up 81 per cent of television sports news coverage, compared to women at 8.7 per cent.

"To put this into context, horse racing received more air time than women's sport in Australian television news," it said."

I think the continued participation of women in netball, AFL, hockey or whatever sport women chose to play is yet another push for women to be equally represented in all aspects of life, not just here in Australia but globally and I really encourage all of you to continue to play, support and watch women in whatever they are playing or competing in.

Thank you.

¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Susan_Alberti

² <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-04-12/decline-of-women-sports-coverage-in-australia-a-tragedy/6359786>