

ANNUAL REPORT 2026



women
ONside



About Us

Women Onside is a national independent organisation advocating for gender equity in Australian football.

Women Onside is a national independent organisation advocating for gender equity in football in Australia.

We aim to connect, empower and amplify the voices of those who are under-represented at all levels of the game; by means of advocacy, research, professional development and building community we strive to establish a football system that gives women and non-binary people equal opportunities to take part in it, to take on leadership roles and to be recognised.

We work at every level, from grassroots football to national governance. We provide evidence for the important discussions, establish practical routes towards leadership, link people together throughout the game and speak out whenever progress is too slow.

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A more inclusive football culture benefits everyone. It builds better people, stronger communities and a brighter future for the game.



Our Vision

Women in football, everywhere.



Our Mission

To ensure women have equitable opportunities and representation in football leadership through advocacy, engaged networks and professional development.



Our People

As a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee, Women Onside is governed by a Board of Directors elected by the membership and complemented by additional directors appointed by the Board. Seven of our directors are elected and one has been appointed. Together, they bring a diverse range of experience from across football and share a strong commitment to advancing women's football and women in football.

The Board is supported by a small, dedicated team working across membership, administration, communications, finance and events. Laura Noble leads membership and administration, Lucy Small coordinates advocacy and communications, Tanvi Bapat supports the organisation as Honorary Bookkeeper, and Connie Chronopoulos assists with event delivery and coordination.

Together, our directors and staff provide the governance, expertise and day-to-day support that keep Women Onside connected, visible and moving forward.



Kerry Harris
Chair



Kieran Pender
Deputy Chair



Mel Mallam
Company Secretary



Jo Fernandez
Director



Sarah Duce
Director



Jacky Ronan
Director



Brooke Reid
Director



Kate Anthonisz
Director



Patrick Clancy
Director



Olivia Roney
Director



Tanvi Bapat
Bookkeeper



Laura Noble



Lucy Small



Connie Chronopoulos

Chair's Report

This year has been an important one for Women Onside. We have continued to advocate for change, create opportunities for women in football and women's football, and strengthen the organisation that sits behind that work.

There is plenty to be proud of.

During the year we published the Women Onside Index and Coach Tracker for the fifth year, continued our Getting on Board program, brought members and the broader football community together through events and professional development, and spoke up when we believed football needed to do better. The reports from our Committee Chairs that follow tell those stories in more detail.

But for me, one initiative stands apart.

In February we launched the Maria Berry AM Coaching Scholarship, in partnership with Melbourne Victory and Football Coaches Australia. Maria was Women Onside's co-founder and inaugural Chair. She was also my friend and mentor.

Maria spent decades creating opportunities for women in football, particularly at community level, and understood that changing who we see in leadership requires more than simply encouraging women to put their hands up. It requires opportunities, support, networks and people willing to open doors. The scholarships are a very practical way of continuing work that Maria cared deeply about.

Our advocacy during the year also reminded us why our work remains necessary. For the fifth year, the Women Onside Index and Coach Tracker gave us evidence of where football is making progress on gender equity, and where it is not. This year's results showed just one female head coach across the A-League Women, one female CEO among the 11 governing bodies we track, and only six of those governing bodies meeting the 40:40:20 gender representation target.

There has been progress, and it is important that we recognise it. But progress is not yet consistent across our game. Women Onside will continue to use evidence, advocacy and practical programs to help close that gap.

We have also spent time this year strengthening Women Onside itself.

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I am incredibly proud of what we have achieved together and excited for what we can accomplish in the year ahead.



Much of that work is less visible, but it matters. As a largely volunteer organisation, we need the governance, people, partnerships and financial foundations that allow Women Onside to continue its work as directors, committee members and volunteers come and go.

During the year, Patrick Clancy resigned from the Board. I thank Patrick for his contributions and time he gave to Women Onside. At this year's AGM we will also farewell Kieran Pender, Olivia Roney and Kate Weymer, and I thank each of them for their expertise and commitment they have given the organisation. Kieran, I shall miss your wise counsel.

I will also leave the Board at the AGM, having completed the maximum three terms permitted under our Constitution. Members already know this, and I have had the opportunity to reflect elsewhere on what nearly a decade with Women Onside has meant to me.

So I will simply say thank you. Thank you to my fellow directors, our committee members, staff, volunteers, partners, donors and supporters. And particularly, thank you to our members. Women Onside exists because people believe Australian football can be better and are prepared to help make it so.

It has been a privilege to play my part. I leave proud of what we have achieved, confident in the organisation we are handing to the next Board, and certain that Women Onside's voice is still needed.

The work continues.

Kerry Harris

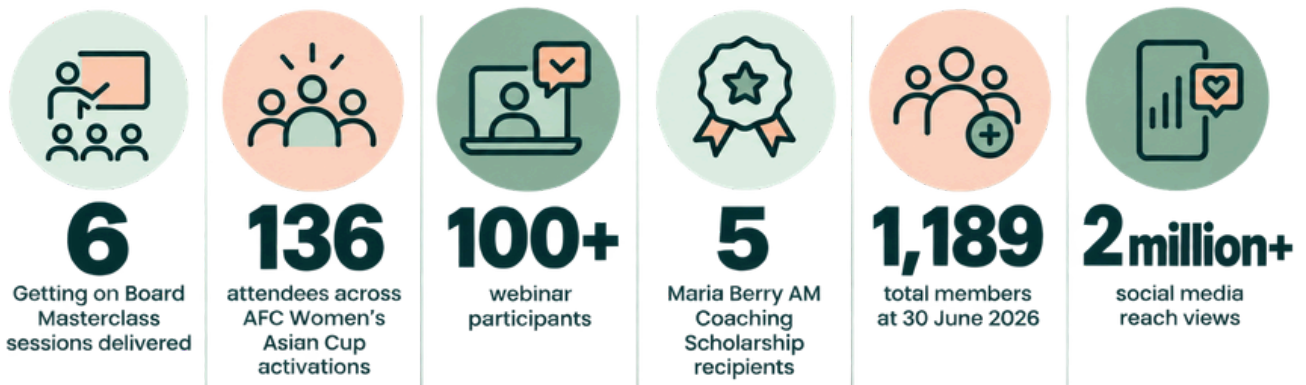
KERRY HARRIS

Chair, Women Onside



Our Year in Review

This year was focused on turning the groundwork into actual action; we went on with building up the evidence base for change, put money into practical leadership routes, used a big tournament on home soil to bring the community together, and improved the governance and operating model that underpinned our work.



Advancement in football is seldom the result of a single decision, a single programme or a single moment; it comes about only when the evidence is impossible to ignore, when women have access to the skills and networks they need, when people are involved in the discussion, and when organisations are strong enough to continue pushing for change.

In 2025 and 2026 Women Onside was active in all of those areas. During that time the organisation combined advocacy and research with practical programmes, community engagement and deliberate investment in our own capabilities.

The outcome was not just greater activity but a more direct connection between the things we say need to change and the actions we are taking to bring about that change.



WOMEN ONSIDE NETWORKING EVENT

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ONside

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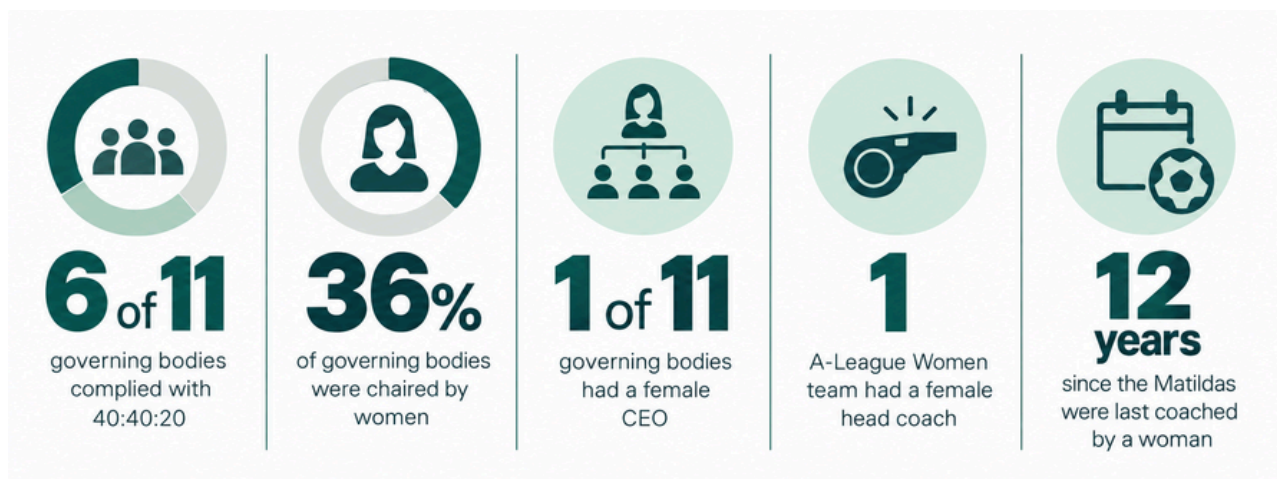
Advocacy & Research

Evidence gives advocacy weight

Women Onside was formed because gender equity in football leadership could not be left to good intentions alone. Change needs standards, transparency and evidence.

The Women Onside Index (WO Index) is carrying on this work by monitoring the representation of women in the governance of football in Australia in relation to the 40:40:20 guideline. This model requires that decision-making bodies should have at least 40 per cent women, at least 40 per cent men, and the remaining 20 per cent can be of either gender.

As of January 2026, the results for 2026 illustrate the continued importance of ongoing scrutiny.



Progress is not the same as parity

When all the governing bodies are taken together, women made up just over 41 per cent of the board members in 2026. At first sight, that seems almost balanced. However, when looking at each organisation individually, the situation is very much less even.

In 2021 eight organisations met the 40:40:20 benchmark; in 2026 this number had fallen to six. Although women's overall representation on the boards has stayed approximately at the 40 per cent level throughout the lifetime of the Index, the number of organisations that consistently meet the benchmark is less than it was when the tracking started.

The difference is even more apparent when it comes to executive and coaching leadership; of the 11 governing bodies monitored only one had appointed a woman as CEO, and among the A-League Women teams only one was headed by a woman as well. Joe Montemurro's appointment as coach of the Matildas has once again extended the period of 12 years during which no woman had been the head coach of the national team.

The figures are not included with the aim of underscoring lack of progress; on the contrary, they indicate the areas in which progress is still uneven, the places where the pipelines for leadership are still weak, and the situations in which football has to pose more difficult questions regarding who is being recruited, who is being developed, who is being appointed and who is being retained.

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What we make
visible shapes
what other
people think is
possible



Research Built for Action

Over the past year, Women Onside has collaborated with the Global Institute for Women's Leadership at the Australian National University to research gender attitudes, behaviours, and lived experiences within Australian football.

In October 2025, Women Onside, the Global Institute for Women's Leadership, and the Australian National University launched the Australian Football Gender Equality Survey. This initiative gathered online participants and featured speakers from various sectors of the football and research communities including Erin Clout, Isabella Nimmo, Sarah Styles and Professor Michelle Ryan. The goal of this partnership is to surpass assumptions and document the real experiences that underpin participation and leadership statistics.

The next phase of the project, titled "Your Voice, Your Game: The Lived Experiences of Women and Gender-Diverse People in Australian Football," will be made publicly available following the current reporting period. Preliminary materials for this project indicate that it will explore barriers to leadership, instances of harassment, and the optimism many women have regarding the future of football.

Maria Berry AM Coaching Scholarship

A legacy that opens doors.

Maria Berry AM remained involved in football for over four decades, coaching local teams, setting up new clubs and development routes, mentoring people and advocating for structural changes in the boardroom. As a co-founder and the first Chair of Women Onside, she contributed to the organisation's conviction that women should be able to play, lead and be recognised in the game.

When Maria died in September 2025, Women Onside wanted her memory to have a lasting impact and achieved that by means of the Maria Berry AM Coaching Scholarship.

The scholarship, which was launched in February 2026 in association with Melbourne Victory and Football Coaches Australia, provides support for women and gender diverse coaches at the community level. It is a response to the obstacles which still prevent women from entering the field of coaching, such as the cost of education, limited access to professional networks, the absence of visible role models and the informal channels via which many opportunities are currently distributed.



Practical support, not just encouragement

The scholarship features funded coaching development along with structured mentoring, access to professional networks, visibility and support from peers; the Major Scholarship also provides an internship with the Melbourne Victory Football Club.

The model shows a basic truth at the heart of Women Onside's activities: just telling women to put their hands up isn't sufficient. Opportunity must be accompanied by access, support and people who are willing to open doors.

A ripple effect by design

The aim of the scholarship is to produce an effect that goes beyond that of the initial recipients. Those who receive the scholarship agree to mentor a rising coach and to share their own experience using the Women Onside and Football Coaches Australia platforms. Eventually, the opportunity granted to one coach is intended to develop into support, visibility and encouragement for the next.

The inaugural recipients

Rebecca Berry from Victoria has been awarded the Major Scholarship, while Irene Rahman (Victoria), Mereki Nieman (Victoria), Sarah Williams (Victoria) and Sophia Varley (New South Wales) receive Development Scholarships; Sophia's scholarship is specifically aimed at goalkeepers.

Major Scholarship Recipient



Rebecca Berry

Rebecca is a Bendigo-based coach working across community, academy, school and senior women's football. She is Head Coach of the Football Victoria Academy U13 Girls, Colts United FC Senior Women and Ivanhoe Grammar Girls Firsts, and also works in athlete development and female coach mentoring.

A Football Australia B Diploma holder and Football Victoria's 2024 Female Community Coach of the Year, Rebecca is working towards her A Diploma and a long-term career in coaching. The scholarship will help reduce financial and access barriers while supporting her commitment to bring knowledge and opportunity back to regional football.

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I aim to mentor others, particularly those in regional areas, and contribute to strengthening pathways for women and girls within the game.

Rebecca Berry

Leadership & Professional Development

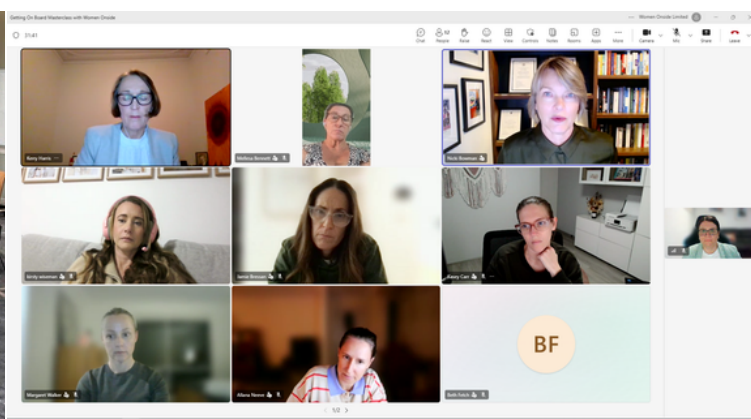
Building readiness for leadership

The professional development activities offered by Women Onside are centered around a practical question: what is needed for women to transition from merely wishing to contribute to actually feeling ready to take on leadership roles? In 2026, the Getting on Board initiative continued to serve as Women Onside's governance and financial literacy programme for aspiring and current football leaders.

The programme included three Masterclass sessions that combined instruction on governance fundamentals, financial literacy, election and board processes, personal experiences, and purposeful networking. To further enhance this initiative, Women Onside partnered with various organizations to host targeted workshops throughout the year. Football Victoria commissioned a workshop on July 25, 2025, which provided additional insights and hands-on experiences. Following that, Football NSW held a workshop on September 12, 2025, and Football West organized another on October 26, 2025. These workshops complemented the online sessions and aimed to create a dynamic learning environment tailored to the needs of women in football.

The initial evaluation results from these initiatives were promising. All participants in Session 1 reported an increased interest in governance, while those in Session 2 expressed greater confidence in their ability to interpret financial reports and actively engage in board or committee meetings. Notably, no session received a rating lower than Good, with guest speakers and the practical financial literacy materials highlighted as particular strengths.

Looking ahead, the next stage involves strengthening the link between learning and action. This can be accomplished through more practical exercises, clearer pathways after the program, an active graduate network, and long-term follow-up for those who step into board and committee roles. By integrating these elements, Women Onside aims to empower women further and ensure they are well-prepared for leadership opportunities in football.





AFC
WOMEN'S
ASIAN CUP
AUSTRALIA
2026™

Networks & Community

Three cities. One tournament. A bigger conversation.

For Women Onside, the AFC Women's Asian Cup Australia 2026 was not just a tournament moment; it provided an opportunity to turn the attention of national media towards women's football by encouraging connection, conversation and longer-term engagement.

In Perth, Melbourne and Sydney Women Onside carried out three separate activations for members, supporters, leaders and stakeholders. The events as a whole drew in just under 200 people.

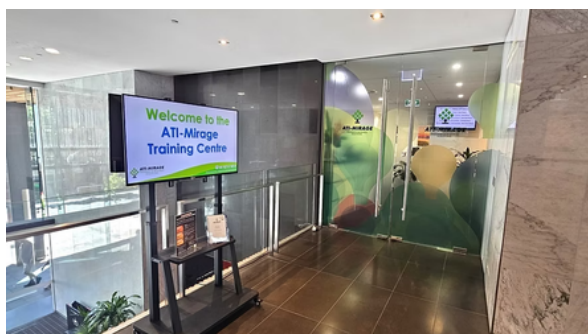




Perth: opening the conversation

On 27 February, Women Onside hosted a networking event in Perth with support from ATI-Mirage Training & Business Solutions. Dominique Mecoy OAM served as MC, with Professor Sophia Nimphius, Grace Johnston and Carlee Millikin bringing perspectives from research, elite football, government and football leadership.

The event offered an opportunity to talk about gender equality, leadership and the further steps that are still required for women and gender diverse people in the game, and it also gave an early chance to present Women Onside's 2026 advocacy priorities and to announce the Maria Berry AM Coaching Scholarship. Our thanks to venue sponsor ATI-Mirage Training & Business Solutions for their support and partnership of this event.



Melbourne: football, community and visibility

On 1st March the Women Onside organisation held a watch party for the Matildas as Australia started its Asian Cup campaign with a match against the Philippines.

Dr Shona Bass, a former Matilda and the first President of the Matildas Alumni Association, was our guest speaker and used the enthusiasm of match day to launch a discussion on women's leadership and history in the sport.

Sydney: leadership on the eve of the final

On 20 March Women Onside organised a networking event at Norton Rose Fulbright Australia, with Nicki Bowman acting as master of ceremonies and Ann Odong, Beau Busch, Mark Falvo and Kerry Harris forming the panel of speakers. The event provided an opportunity for Women Onside members, invited guests and football leaders to meet and reflect on the ongoing growth and impact of women's football in Australia. Our thanks to our venue sponsor Norton Rose Fulbright Australia for their support and partnership of this event.





Connection across the game.

The Asian Cup campaign also demonstrated the value of major tournament moments in introducing more people to Women Onside and creating pathways for deeper engagement. During the tournament, over 50 new members joined our network and almost 200 people participated in Women Onside activations across Perth, Melbourne and Sydney. These events gave us the opportunity to connect with people who may not previously have engaged with our work, while also strengthening relationships with existing members, supporters and stakeholders.

That is important because Women Onside's influence is grounded in our community. Our events are not intended to be an end in themselves. They are a way of bringing people closer to the issues we advocate on, creating space for meaningful conversations, connecting people with others who share a commitment to change, and helping build a stronger national network around women in football.

Major tournaments create moments of heightened attention and energy around the game. For Women Onside, the opportunity is to turn that short-term visibility into longer-term connection, participation and membership, so that engagement continues well beyond the final whistle.



Online conversations with national reach

Online engagement was still an important element of Women Onside's national role, especially since the community extended across the states, territories and various parts of the football system.

The webinar on Coaching the Future, which looked at the cultural, structural and interpersonal obstacles faced by women coaches as well as providing practical details regarding career pathways and the benefits of having supportive professional networks, attracted over 100 registrations and was therefore one of Women Onside's most actively engaged webinars to date.

In October Erin Clout, Isabella Nimmo, Sarah Styles and Professor Michelle Ryan took part in a discussion associated with the launch of the Australian Football Gender Equality Survey, a discussion which linked the research with the real experiences of women in sport.

Showing up where football gathers

In May 2026 as part of Female Football Week, Women Onside expanded its presence with a series of events and sector forums throughout the country. Kerry Harris attended the Women in Football Celebrate You Breakfast organised by Football West at the Sam Kerr Football Centre and was the leader of the Women in Football: Leadership & Connection session held at ServiceFM Stadium by Football South Australia.

Kerry took part in Football Victoria's Women in Leadership workshop and also represented Women Onside in an online forum of the Women's Sport Collective Oceania.

Through these opportunities Women Onside were able to connect with players, coaches, referees, administrators, volunteers and emerging leaders, as well as ensuring that issues of leadership and gender equity remained visible in the broader football discussions.

A Stronger Public Voice

Advocacy is only effective if people hear it; in 2025-26 Women Onside invested in more frequent, timely and relevant communication through social media, digital channels, events and public commentary.

Content closest to current football issues was most effective. Posts which explained an issue, provided context for a headline or quickly responded to new developments drew strong engagement. Major moments during the tournament also caused a clear rise in interest and helped to bring in new audiences for Women Onside.

The fact that our audience has grown is important for reasons that go beyond simply increasing visibility. With a larger public audience, Women Onside will have more opportunities to present evidence, boost the voices that are currently underrepresented, encourage people to take part in its programmes and membership initiatives, and show that gender equity in football is a matter that has an active national constituency supporting it.

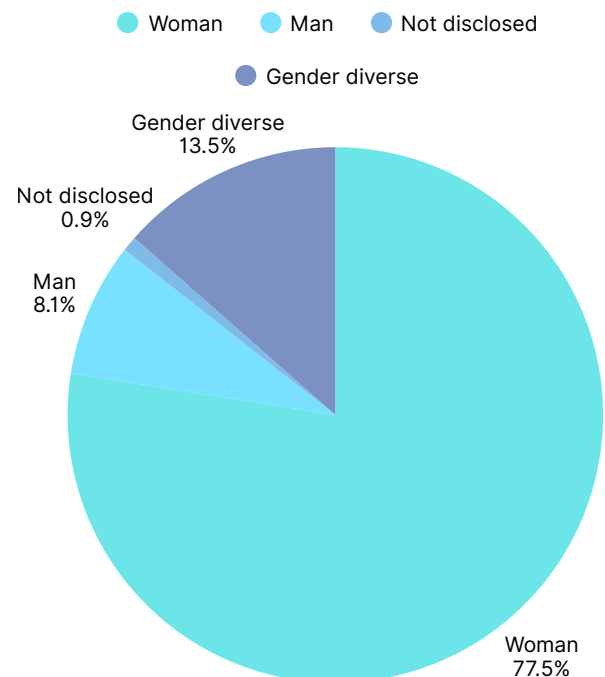
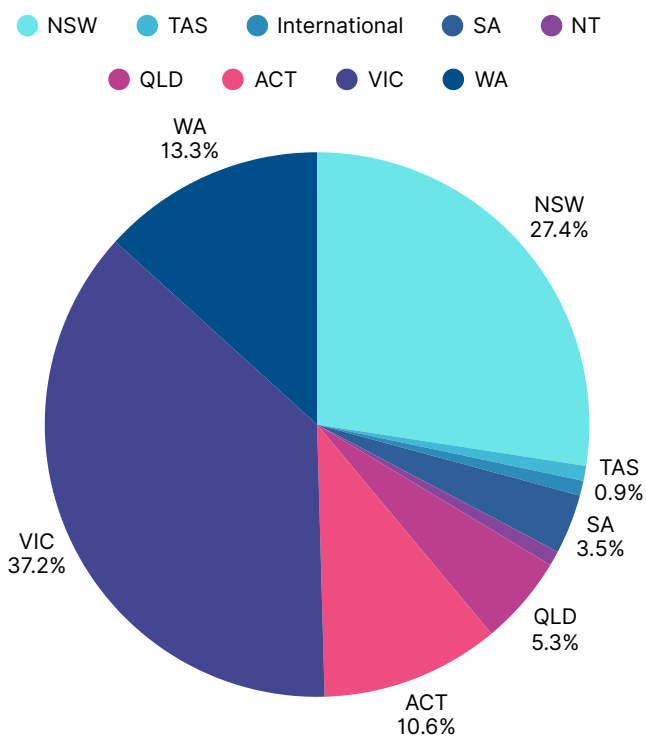
The next challenge is to turn reach into greater involvement, this means having more members, more supporters, stronger relationships with stakeholders, and having more people willing to take action on the issues that Women Onside brings up.

Our Members

Our members span every corner of the game and the country. The largest group are based in Victoria, with strong representation across NSW, ACT and WA plus international members who connect with our work globally.

The majority of members identify as women (77.5%), with growing numbers of men and gender diverse members joining our network.

Their interests are as diverse as the game itself, from fans and supporters, to those in governance, playing, coaching, refereeing, media, and research all united by a shared commitment to driving gender equality in football.



Governance & Organisational Sustainability

A great deal of the significant work done this year took place out of sight. Women Onside is a small organisation which has a volunteer board, and the organisation's long-term success will depend on sound governance, systems, people and funding in order to support its mission through periods of change.

Over the course of the year the Board carried out a comprehensive review of Women Onside's Constitution, obtaining legal advice for this purpose pro bono from Baker McKenzie. The aim of the review was to improve the governance arrangements, clarify our charitable purpose and advocacy aims, use more inclusive language and assist with a future application for registration with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission.

The changes were officially accepted at a Special General Meeting on 15 June 2026 after members had been engaged. The amendments established the Deputy Chair position, extended the terms of both the Chair and the Deputy Chair to two years, and adopted more inclusive language to recognise non-binary people.

In June 2026, the Board established a formal protocol concerning the way in which information is passed between its five Committees. With the committees now established, the Board decided to change its meeting pattern from meeting once a month to holding six full Board meetings each year, with more detailed work being carried out within the Committees between the meetings.



A distributed delivery model

Women Onside also changed its way of operating during the year. We have said goodbye to Samantha Lewis, our first Impact Manager, and would like to thank her for the expertise and energy she gave to the organisation.

Instead of immediately filling the post, the Board and the staff team adopted a more widely distributed method of delivering the work. The directors took on leadership roles within the various strategic pillars and worked more closely with the small staff team to advance the priority projects. As a result, the work has continued to progress while making better use of the expertise available throughout the Board.

People behind the work

We were pleased to appoint Tanvi Bapat as honorary bookkeeper in August 2025, taking on the role from Leah Mercuri, who had been our bookkeeper since February 2022. We thank Leah for her invaluable skills and easy-going nature, nothing was ever too much trouble, and we're grateful for the time she gave us.

Additionally, we have hired Connie Chronopoulos as our first dedicated WAC26 Event Coordinator to strengthen our capabilities concerning the Asian Cup activations.

Kerryn Moulds retired from her position as Company Secretary in December 2025 and we thank Kerryn for her time with us. Mel Mallam took over the role in February 2026. Mel has experience in sports law and governance, valuable assets to Women Onside's compliance and governance activities.

Funding the Work

The work of Women Onside is made possible because of the support given by individuals and organisations to an independent voice advocating for gender equity in football.

Throughout the year, supporters contributed over \$3,400 which was specifically for the Maria Berry AM Coaching Scholarship.

This year's constitutional reform was in part drawn up with a view to facilitating a future application for charitable registration, as this would help to broaden the funding opportunities open to Women Onside as it expands.

Partnerships that add more than funding

The financial support, expertise, networks, platforms and credibility provided through Women Onside's partnerships are all important to our work.

This year, Melbourne Victory and Football Coaches Australia partnered with Women Onside to establish the Maria Berry AM Coaching Scholarship. The Global Institute for Women's Leadership at the Australian National University supported research into gender attitudes and lived experience, while pro bono legal partners assisted with constitutional reform and policy work. Event partners and hosts also supported national connection opportunities during the AFC Women's Asian Cup.

These relationships show the many ways organisations can work with Women Onside, from investing in leadership pathways and research to opening networks, hosting conversations, providing expertise and helping our advocacy reach wider audiences.

AFC WOMEN'S ASIAN CUP AUSTRALIA 2026™



DREAM
FEARLESS

PERTH
BOORLOO

GOLD COAST
KOMBUMERRI COUNTRY

SYDNEY
GADIGAL

TAG US ON SOCIALS @WACAUS2026

Our Finances

Women Onside recorded a net deficit of \$51,086 for the year ended 30 June 2026, compared to a surplus of \$20,796 in FY25. This result was planned, the Board approved a deliberate investment in the Advocacy and Policy program and member engagement, funded from existing reserves, which remain sufficient to absorb it.

Women Onside recorded a net deficit of \$51,086 for the year ended 30 June 2026, compared to a surplus of \$20,796 in FY25. This result was planned, the Board approved a deliberate investment in the Advocacy and Policy program and member engagement, funded from existing reserves, which remain sufficient to absorb it.

Total income was \$92,072 (FY25: \$102,196) and total operating expenses were \$143,158 (FY25: \$81,400). The movement in expenditure was driven principally by Advocacy and Policy, up from \$1,250 to \$88,996, and Networks and Membership, up from \$18,353 to \$40,652.

The increase in Advocacy and Policy spend reflects investment in people, the program carried the cost of the Impact Manager role, in place until November 2025, together with communications capability to build Women Onside's public voice.

The rise in Networks & Membership spend reflects a member engagement strategy built around the AFC Women's Asian Cup, using the tournament to engage with and grow the member base and strengthen the organisation's voice in women's football.

The FY26 deficit was a planned, Board-approved investment in Women Onside's advocacy capability and member voice, not a loss of financial control. In FY27, the Board commenced work on a commercialisation strategy to grow revenue from existing programs and build new revenue streams alongside donor support, strengthening Women Onside's long-term financial sustainability. The Board will also develop a reserves policy in FY27 and continue to monitor income and reserves closely over the coming year.

Profit and Loss Summary

	FY26	FY25
Income		
Donations income	\$72,620	\$93,543
Interest income	\$3,273	\$750
Membership fees	\$2,679	\$1,940
Registration fees	\$0	\$5,563
Fees for service	\$13,500	\$0
Sundry income	\$0	\$400
Total income	\$92,072	\$102,196
Expenses		
Advocacy and Policy	\$88,996	\$1,250
Networks & Membership	\$40,652	\$18,353
Professional Development	\$4,146	\$500
Organisational	\$9,365	\$61,297
Total operating expenses	\$143,158	\$81,400
Net profit / (deficit)	(\$51,086)	\$20,796

Balance Sheet Summary

	FY26	FY25
Assets		
Cash at bank	\$90,188	\$148,152
Current assets	\$1,498	\$4,334
Fixed assets	\$187	\$187
Total assets	\$91,873	\$152,674
Liabilities		
Current liabilities	\$6,709	\$16,384
Non-current	\$0	\$40
Total liabilities	\$6,709	\$16,424
Net assets	\$85,164	\$136,249
Equity		
Retained earnings	\$136,250	\$110,843
Current year	(\$51,086)	\$25,407
Total equity	\$85,164	\$136,250



Thank you

To our donors and partners

Your support continues to play an important role in making Women Onside's work possible.

Through your financial contributions, expertise, networks, time and practical support, you help us strengthen our advocacy, deliver leadership and professional development opportunities, connect our community and build a stronger foundation for the organisation's future.

The impact of that support extends beyond individual programs or events. It helps us create opportunities, amplify important conversations and maintain an independent voice advocating for greater equity across football.

We value the trust you place in Women Onside and the shared commitment that sits behind each partnership and contribution.

There is still more work to do, but we are stronger because of the people and organisations who choose to stand with us.

Thank you for being part of Women Onside's work and for helping us continue to create change across the game.

Partners & Supporters

Melbourne Victory Football Club
Football Coaches Australia
The Global Institute for Women's Leadership
Australian National University
Baker Mackenzie
June Canavan Foundation

ATI-Mirage Training & Business Solutions
Norton Rose Fulbright Australia
Dylan Young - Photographer
Maya Luana - Photographer
Ella Mitchell - Photographer
Wirnida Azman - Photographer

Looking Ahead

The task before us is straightforward: while women's football is becoming more visible and more widely participated in, leadership, coaching, the power to make decisions and investment have not advanced at the same rate in all places.

For the 2026-27 period Women Onside is entering with stronger evidence, a number of practical programs aimed at building leadership pathways, a growing community, and a more clear operating model. The following year will be one of putting those assets to good use.

Influence

We will keep on using the Women Onside Index, the Coach Tracker and our public advocacy as a way of clearly addressing the issue of representation and leadership in Australian football. If progress is achieved, we will acknowledge it; if there are still gaps, we will continue to question why this is so and what then needs to be done.

Evidence

The next stage of the partnership with the Global Institute for Women's Leadership will put a greater emphasis on lived experience, with the forthcoming publication of Your Voice, Your Game supplying a new body of evidence for discussions on leadership barriers, harassment and the kind of future that women and gender diverse people want to see in football.

The aim of Women Onside is to make use of that research beyond just publishing it, for example by giving stakeholder briefings, holding public discussions and carrying out further advocacy with football organisations and decision-makers.

Leadership

Getting on Board will keep developing from a good learning experience into a more clear route towards action, with us working to strengthen the graduate network, improving follow-up, sharing leadership opportunities and monitoring the longer-term outcomes as the participants go through the various cycles of football's governance and committees.

The Maria Berry AM Coaching Scholarship is beginning its first full year of operation, providing support to recipients in the form of education, mentoring, access to networks and practical opportunities while at the same time developing a model which can establish a sustainable pipeline of women coaches.

Community

Women Onside will keep on balancing its national online engagement with offline events which bring people together around the key moments and issues affecting the game, and membership growth will stay a priority, not just as an indication of the size of the organisation, but because a more robust member community provides a broader range of experience, support and influence.

Sustainability

The Board is now beginning to work on a commercialisation strategy in order to increase revenue from its existing programmes and at the same time create new revenue streams together with donor support. A reserves policy will also be drawn up in fiscal year 2027 as Women Onside continues to consolidate its financial base.

The progress made towards charitable registration will be included in the sustainability efforts, as it may help to expand the range of funding opportunities open to the organisation.

Ten years of Women Onside

The tenth anniversary of the formation of Women Onside will occur in July 2027, this being the same time as the FIFA Women's World Cup Brazil 2027; it therefore provides a significant opportunity to reflect on a decade of change, to acknowledge the women who have contributed to setting the organisation up and to draw attention to the work that remains to be done.

Ten years is a milestone. It is not an endpoint.



Work with Us

Women Onside exists because people believe Australian football can be better and are prepared to help make it so.

There are many ways to be part of that work.

Join us

Become a Women Onside member and add your voice to a national community working for equitable opportunity and representation across football.

Partner with us

We work with organisations that want to create meaningful change in women's football and women's leadership. Partnerships can support research, leadership and coaching pathways, events, professional development, public conversations or the capability that allows independent advocacy to continue.

Support our work

Donations help Women Onside remain an independent voice, invest in practical programs and respond when the game needs stronger advocacy.

Bring Women Onside into the conversation

Our research, programs, speakers and national network can help football organisations, businesses and community leaders better understand the barriers women face and the opportunities that exist to change them.



Email Address

join@womenonside.com.au



Website

www.womenonside.com.au



Instagram | Facebook | LinkedIn

[@womenonside](https://www.instagram.com/womenonside)



womenONside
WOMEN IN FOOTBALL EVERYWHERE

2026 ANNUAL REPORT

