

National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security
Office for Women
Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
PO Box 7576
Canberra Business Centre ACT 2610
By email: unscr1325@fahcsia.gov.au

To Who It May Concern

Netball Australia welcomes the release and subsequent calls for submissions by the Hon Kate Ellis MP, Minister for Employment Participation and Childcare; Minister for the Status of Women of the **Australian National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security: Consultation Draft, 2011.**

As Australia's leading female sport, Netball Australia and the State Netball Associations are committed to the provision of innovative and sustainable netball programs to facilitate social change and empowerment of women and girls.

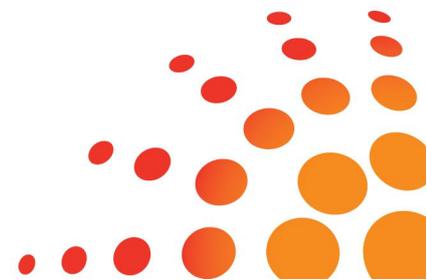
Netball is ranked as the leading women's participation team sport and the top team based sport in Australia for 15 to 24 year olds. Over 1.2 million participants enjoy the game nationally and Australia has been dominant on the international stage since 1963. Netball Australia has more than 330,000 registered members; 5,000 clubs nationally; 570 Associations; and eight member organisations.

Netball Australia commends the Australian Government's commitment to ensuring a fair, safe and secure nation for all Australians; and for supporting the United National Security Council Resolution 1325. It is heartbreaking to read of the considerable humanitarian hardships in conflict and post-conflict situations. The gender inequality, reduced ability to lead productive and fulfilling lives, and the trauma to the victims, their families and communities is difficult to comprehend.

As Netball Australia does not work directly in the area of peace and security and or fragile, conflict and post-conflict situations, we are not in a position to provide feedback on the four priority areas of Prevention, Participation, Protection and Relief and Recovery, we do however strongly support the protection of human rights of women and girls; and stand ready to assist should the opportunity arise.

By way of background, the sport of netball as a social change agent espouses many of the underlying principles that would have informed the goals and objectives of the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, by way of examples:

- Working to deliver greater equality between women and men through facilitating aspirational leadership, providing opportunities for board directorships and senior executive management positions, increasing opportunities in coaching, officiating and administration, introducing contemporary employment practices, providing minimum terms of employment for elite netballers, and raising the profile of women's sport.



- Helping Australia to continue playing a leading role in the delivery of sport for development opportunities (sport as a tool for social, economic, health and educational development), through in-country partnerships in the Oceania, Pacific, Asian, Caribbean and African regions.
- Commending the National Plan to reduce violence against women and their children.
- Enhancing netball's ethics and integrity principles that help to provide a fair, safe and inclusive environment for all.
- Helping to Close the Gap by developing a Netball Reconciliation Action Plan and partnering with community organisations to empower women and girls with the aim of helping girls stay at school, go on to further education, get a job and improved their quality of life.
- Providing activities that have significant community benefits.

As Minister Ellis concluded in her Foreword to the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, "*Women are powerful agents of change*". Netball is the largest female community based sporting organisation in the world, with more than 70 nations playing and over 21 million participants world-wide. Netball can make a real difference in the lives of women and girls.

If you require further information, please contact me on phone [REDACTED] or email nadine.cohen@netball.asn.au.

Yours sincerely



Nadine Cohen
Head of Strategy & Government Liaison

17 October 2011

cc: The Hon Mark Arbib, Minister for Indigenous Employment and Economic Development, Minister for Sport, Minister for Social Housing and Homelessness