

ADMINISTRATORS IN ACTION

EMMA HIGHWOOD, FFA



provide you with constructive feedback. Be willing to listen and learn from others, and always create time for reflection on your own development.

What are your favourite 3 aspects of your current role at the FFA?

- ▶ I love the challenge, that we are an ambitious sport which is on the up in Australia, and Women's Football is key to that growth
- ▶ I enjoy working with my team, supporting and watching people learn and grow is something I particularly enjoy as a manager
- ▶ I enjoy the fact that I can effect change, and give something back to the sport, which has given me so much, in two areas specifically which have always been my greatest passions – grassroots and women's

Why would you encourage females to perform any variety of administrative roles at their local club/ within their sporting community?

It is important that we have more women involved in sport. Women will bring their own individual skills and experiences which can help the football clubs to grow in the community. This will also result in an increase of women and girls playing and coaching in the game. We are a diverse society, and football should reflect that. Being involved in a club is a great way to contribute to the community, and contribute to the game.

What advice would you give to a young sporting administrator?

Focus on roles and getting involved in projects which can assist to develop skills and build your networks, rather than focusing on salaries and or job titles. Surround yourself with people who can

NYSSA SUCHANOW, NNSWF



How have you developed personally and professionally from your work at Northern NSW Football?

Working in football has given me the opportunity to develop a wide variety of skills and develop a lot of personal strengths. Public speaking was something I was horrible at before I started, now I can confidently speak in front of large groups of people - even state federation CEO's! However, I think the biggest thing I have taken from this whole experience has been to never doubt myself; I can achieve more than what I think.

What would you say to clubs and individuals is the best way to contribute to the growth of female football?

We need more women in decision making positions on committees! However, I would encourage anyone with an interest in football to get involved, even if it's their child that has an interest...it's always good to give back to your community, and you never know where it might take you! If you're thinking about getting involved at any level go for it, don't doubt your ability. Whether you want to be on the committee, you want to coach or you would like to become a referee there is a lot of support available right through from your local club to FFA, all you need to do is ask.