

ABERFELDIE JETS BASKETBALL CLUB INC
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MOONEE PONDS, VIC 3039



Incorporated in Victoria, Registered A0004935A
ABN 26 603 218 384

1 October 2020

Hello Candidates of the 2020 Moonee Valley City Council election,

We are calling on our local candidates to publicly support and to help deliver a highball stadium for the Moonee Valley community. This is a key issue which our ever-growing basketball community are looking for resolution and action on. The Aberfeldie Jets and other basketball clubs in the area along with Netball Victoria and Basketball Victoria are unified in this drive. We are keen to share with our members and the wider community the support from candidates that we receive on this issue.

Aberfeldie Jets Basketball Club Inc. has been bringing together children and their families from the Moonee Valley municipality, through basketball, for over 40 years. We are one of the largest basketball clubs, not only within Victoria but Australia. Our last season saw us field 122 teams into the Keilor Basketball Association which was over 25% of their total competition. Over the last seven years Aberfeldie Jets has more than doubled in size. The recent 2020 Summer Season saw us register over 1,000 players and 250 volunteers, with 93% of them being residents of Moonee Valley. We are community focused and believe in providing participation opportunities not only for our members but the wider community. This is evident in our Junior Jets skills clinic (programs for younger kids) and female only skills sessions.

However as remarkable as we are, our club, and other smaller basketball clubs based in Moonee Valley, do not have the resource of dedicated highball courts in our municipality. In fact, Moonee Valley is the only metropolitan municipality in greater Melbourne without a competition complaint highball stadium. It is not uncommon for our wait list to swell to over 300 children, but lack of local courts sees us struggle to place them all. Local children, your community, are being turned away from the game they love because we don't have enough courts to be able to support them. A needs assessment completed by Moonee Valley City Council in August 2016 identified considerable current demand for at least 12 indoor courts, with the number increasing to 15 courts by 2030, yet we are still no closer to a facility. It has become urgent to take action.

Currently Aberfeldie Jets train at nine single local court venues (eight public schools and one church). We book the courts from approximately 4pm to 9pm four nights a week at a substantial cost to our club. Our Association uses 22 courts across 11 venues spread across three municipalities each Saturday to play games. Our families are forced to drive all over northern and western Melbourne because there aren't enough courts in Moonee Valley. This is difficult, costly and unfair on Moonee Valley residents. Families with two or more children can be forced to be in two places at once or drive long distances to give their children access to "local" basketball games.

Basketball is one of Victoria's largest participation sports and continues to experience significant growth. In 2016 there were more than 190,000 registered members in Victoria with registrations increasing by 37% in the metropolitan area over the last 10 years. There are also an estimated further 250,000 Victorians who are involved in informal basketball activities, despite a chronic shortage of playing and training space. In 2018 there were 3327 Moonee Valley residents registered as playing basketball with Basketball Victoria and these numbers only continue to grow in the Western Melbourne region, especially in Moonee Valley where basketball is the fastest growing sport in the municipality.

In the upcoming Moonee Valley elections, we seek your support on the ever-growing need for this type of facility in our municipality. Now is the time to support our growing sport and provide the Moonee Valley basketball community with a safe, reliable environment where they can exercise, train, play and ultimately have fun. The physical and mental wellbeing of our club members and community is of paramount concern, and having a committed, permanent venue in Moonee Valley would provide this support. Building a home for basketball in Moonee Valley will not only create jobs and invest in a sport that is growing in popularity but will also be a step towards a more sustainable municipality by reducing unnecessary traffic on our roads as a result of families having to drive to other municipalities to train and play.

We would appreciate you sharing with us your position supporting the delivery of a highball stadium in Moonee Valley as part of your platform in the upcoming election.

Signed

Jodee Gregory
President

David Butters
Vice President

On behalf of the Aberfeldie Jets Basketball Club Inc.