



Australian Womensport & Recreation Association

MEDIA RELEASE

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“The Good, the Bad and the Ugly”

The Australian Womensport and Recreation Association (AWRA) is delighted with the announcement of an eight team national league, the W-league, for women’s soccer. Starting this October as a semi-professional league it is hoped that the W-league will do for soccer what the Women’s National Basketball League and the Trans Tasman league have done for basketball and netball respectively.

Strong national leagues are the backbone of successful pathways in sport, providing the upper echelon of competition athletes can aim for and that the public can support. National Leagues produce our national teams for international competition while providing the stepping stones and role models around Australia. Congratulations to Football Federation Australia and the naming rights sponsor Westfield. That is the **good news**.

The **bad and the ugly** relates to Sam Newman for his on screen sex slur about a female Tasmania MP. His inappropriate comments demean women in general and are indefensible. Newman’s one month break to undergo counselling has failed.

AWRA calls for his sacking from Channel Nine and for the AFL to stop defending him. Where is the application of the AFL’s ‘Respect and Responsibility’ policy within its own headquarters?

Then again, Channel Nine could redeem itself by starting up a much-needed women in sport weekly show? Now, that would be a novel idea!

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For more information please contact AWRA President Janice Crosswhite OAM on 03 9719 7553 or Secretary Jennifer Riatti on 0408 922 264.