

Darebin Netball Clubs – Growing but lacking courts

Despite the lack of available court space netball in Darebin is growing. Several complaints are received each month from local clubs regarding the lack of court availability.

1. Darebin Netball Association

The Darebin Netball Association (DNA) is based at the Darebin Community Sports Centre. There was a decline in participation from previous years due to new competitions coming from neighbouring venues such as RMIT Bundoora, Banyule NETS in addition to administrative difficulties with the former committee. However since a new committee took over in 2014 participation rates have started grown significantly. This association are now limited in their ability to grow further due to shortage of courts.

2. Northern Football League – a growing netball competition

The Northern Football League initiated a netball competition in 2008, which has experienced significant and steady growth over that time from nine teams in 2008 to 59 teams in 2014. This league has expressed a desire to access increased provision of courts in Darebin to continue to grow their participation rates.

3. Heights Netball Club

The Heights Netball Club was established over 30 years ago, and has approximately 100 junior players and previously trained at Preston Girls High School until it was closed in 2013. The girls now train at Fitzroy High School on a Friday night as this was the only night available. They compete in competitions held at Royal Park, Parkville on Saturday and Thursday night.

4. Other Darebin Clubs

The Parkside Netball Club was formed in 2014 following the establishment of a Net Set Go program based at Fairfield Primary School. They have now become part of the amalgamated Parkside Sporting Club (Parkside Football Club, Parkside Junior Football Club and netball club have linked in with the Parkside Sports Club which includes junior football, cricket, FIDA football and veterans cricket). In 2014 there were 80 primary school aged girls and 8 secondary girls participating in the program. There are limited facilities in the Westgarth area with no organized netball clubs offering competition netball for girls. There is a desire to access the DCSS for netball training however the offered timeslot of 8.30pm – 10.00pm is unsuitable for young primary school aged girls. A petition with over 1,000 signatures has been presented to Darebin City Council for additional indoor sports facilities in Darebin with a particular need in the southern end of the municipality.