

Fitness Victoria
P.O. Box 5083A
BURNLEY VIC 3121

Women's participation in Sport

Your study on Women's participation in Sport is a worthwhile exercise, and must take into account Women who exercise at a local Fitness Centre or Recreation Centre.

As you are looking to impediments to this participation I would like the following two vital issues noted in your research;

1. Child Care/Creche Facilities.

In Victoria child minding facilities come under the same regulations as long term day care facilities even though the mothers in Health Clubs are on site and readily available. The attached letter to the State Minister for Human Services gives an understanding of the industry's protracted battle to retain economical child minding facilities in Centres. If the Department is successful in forcing these Centres to change their structure, fittings and staffing to match those of Day Care Centres many will close their child minding areas, if fact some already have in anticipation and this is incredibly detrimental to the physical and mental (a gym is also a social outlet) wellbeing of suburban mums.

2. P.P.C.A. & A.P.R.A. mandatory charges with uncontrolled price increases.

These music industry charges, supported by government threaten the Group Exercise programs of all Fitness Centres throughout Australia. A proposed 300% increase in fees per class to P.P.C.A. will force Centres to remove their Group Exercise programs – the highest female participation service in our industry. There is no consideration of the social impact of this proposal on women's participation by these government instrumentalities and must be noted in your study.

Helen Benson
President