



## **Parliament of Australia Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence, and Trade Sub-Committee**

### **Inquiry into Australia's Trade and Investment Relationship with the United Kingdom.**

Thank you for the invitation to Netball Australia to make a submission to the inquiry being undertaken by the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade into Australia's Trade and Investment relationship with the United Kingdom.

Netball is the highest participation sport for women and girls in Australia. Our traditional rivalries with the UK remain strong. Tests are played each year with England. England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland compete in many other levels of competition, for example the World Cup and the Commonwealth Games. Netball Australia has provided development assistance to Scotland, especially in the lead up to the Commonwealth Games in 2014, most notably with exchanges in umpiring and coaching personnel.

Indeed, over the next few years there are a series of events on Australian soil with UK representation:

- The Fast Five World Series (top six countries in the world) in Melbourne in October 2017;
- the Quad Series in August 2017 (test locations in Australia being finalised);
- the Commonwealth Games in 2018; and
- the Fast Five World Series again in October 2018.

Netball is played by more than 20 million people in more than 80 countries worldwide and is most popular in Commonwealth nations. This reach allows netball to develop valuable partnerships with the Australian Government and local organisations to use netball as a vehicle for social impact, sport for development and sports diplomacy, particularly in engaging with women and girls.

The Netball World Cup was hosted in Sydney in 2015 and showcased the best female athletes from all over the world, reinforcing Australia's track record in creating and hosting successful, premier sporting events to a global audience. Countries participating in the World Cup included Australia, New Zealand, England, Jamaica, Malawi, South Africa, Wales, Scotland, Fiji, Samoa, Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Uganda and Zambia. The Netball World Cup is being hosted in Liverpool in 2019. There are many opportunities for Australia to leverage this pipeline of events involving the UK to promote trade and investment links.

The World Cup in Sydney in 2015 was the most commercially successful event for the International Netball Federation in its history. It highlighted that netball fans are willing to travel to see the best in the world and provides a useful example for what could be possible for the Commonwealth Games.





Travel packages were offered at the Netball World Cup 2015 (NWC2015) with 8,662 fan packages selling over the event period.

A partnership between Mummu Sport and NWC2015 – the NWC2015 Travel Office – was established in September 2013 to support the strategic development and operational delivery of the NWC2015 Official Travel Agent and team/delegate travel logistics programs.

Similar arrangements with travel offices have been arranged for Fast Five World Series held in Melbourne from 2016-2018.

Our new national league, Suncorp Super Netball has lifted import restrictions and boasts numerous players from England, including Geva Mentor as Captain of Sunshine Coast Lightning.

Attracting tourists and leveraging the fantastic relationships Netball has through its events is crucial in the lead up to the Commonwealth Games and beyond.

