

A new home for the Perth Basketball Association

For over 60 years, the Perth Basketball Association (PBA) has offered a range of basketball opportunities for inner metropolitan Perth families. From their Aussie Hoops program that engages pre and lower primary school students, to their domestic competition, State league representative WABL teams, and men's and women's NBL1 teams, the PBA offerings contribute significantly to the sport, which is booming in WA.

"Many big names of basketball including Luc Longley, Andrew Vlahov, Shawn Redhage, Wildcats Captain Jesse Wagstaff and current NBL star playing with Melbourne United, Kyle Bowen, all have had a strong connection with the PBA," says Board President, Anthony Nixon. "Our dedication to the development of Perth basketball over more than six decades has been unwavering and, unbelievably, we've operated all this time without a home ground," he added.

The Perth Basketball Association currently operates in over 25 basketball court venues each week. In real terms for the Club, this means gaining access to 25 different venues, making sure children and families are safe and feel welcome at 25 different sites and providing staff across all these sites for games and training. For parents, it means the logistics of juggling multiple training venues, with siblings often training and/or playing at different sites at the same time. Many families are also driving over 25 minutes to reach various venues and sometimes on the same night. The strain on the Club and its members is reaching breaking point.

Incredibly, the PBA is not alone in this struggle. Perth Reds Volleyball Association that operates in the same catchment area, for example, runs training and games in over 15 different venues per week. These are just 2 of the many clubs and community groups in the area facing significant logistical challenges scrambling to find available venues over a large geographical area to run their programs.

With the indoor courts situation in Perth at a critical stage, the PBA is taking decisive action, launching a campaign calling for a new stadium for Perth. The campaign aims are to raise awareness of the issues facing indoor sports clubs and teams and encourage all those who play and love sports to sign the e-petition, calling for immediate action from the government.

Ahead of the launch, support for the campaign is wide-ranging and includes the peak basketball body in Perth, Basketball WA. "Finding a home for the Perth Basketball Association is the number 1 priority for Basketball WA in our Strategic Facilities Plan," says Basketball WA Board Chair, Fiona Notley. "Their catchment area is one of the largest of any association and PBA remains as the only association without a home. Comparing PBA membership to the membership of similar basketball associations in Perth, many thousands of kids are not playing basketball in the inner metro region due to the lack of access to courts," she adds.

AusPlay research indicates that on average across Australia 5.5% of the population play basketball and there is a need for one indoor court for every 6250 residents. Current estimates are that the population within the PBA primary residential catchment is nearing 500,000 residents and this is set to increase further with changes in urban density in coming years. Based on these estimates and aligning with the national average, this equates to 27,500 active basketball players in the PBA catchment area alone.

“Our Club is taking action because we want to ensure we are sustainable and meet the needs of our community. Securing a home ground for the PBA is essential. But the campaign for a stadium for Perth goes beyond us,” asserts Anthony.

“Decisive action is needed, before all possible sites are consumed by urban infill and density growth. Without action now, our local area might never have suitable local indoor sporting facilities for the kids of the future to play in sporting competitions.

We’re taking action on behalf of the Perth sporting community more broadly. A new stadium for Perth is necessary to alleviate pressures on all those venues we use piecemeal each week, plus it is essential for the other sporting codes, community groups and schools we intend to share the facility with. While we anticipate the new stadium will be run by the PBA as our home ground, we expect many groups will make use of the space and facilities available,” he added.

Launching mid-June, PBA will run a campaign to gather signatories for an e-petition seeking immediate government action to solve the critical issue of the indoor courts shortage. The petition is being championed by the Hon Hannah Beazley MLA and is scheduled to be presented to the Lower House in mid-August.

To lend your support, click [here](#).

Ends

Campaign community launch: Friday 14 June from 5.30pm at Belmont Oasis Leisure Centre (Redbacks v Rockingham Flames home game). Contact Redbacks CEO, Ryan Lenegan for more details.

RSVP essential to both events: Ryan Lenegan, CEO, Perth Basketball Association 0434 517 867