

**MEDIA RELEASE**  
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## **FOOTBALL WEST WELCOMES AND SUPPORTS FINDINGS OF THE SMITH REVIEW**

Having digested the full contents of the findings and recommendations of the Smith Report 'Building Australia's Football Community: A Review into the Sustainability of Football', Football West wholeheartedly welcomes the report and commits its support to Football Federation Australia (FFA), Perth Glory and all other constituents to help bring about growth and development of the sport from the grassroots through to the highest levels.

Of particular note, and pleasing to those in the game at State and club level, is the finding that grassroots football remains strong with the number of participants nationally having grown from 1.1 million to 1.7 million between 2001 and 2009 with a 52% increase in playing outdoor football. Mr Smith commented that one of the game's biggest challenges for participation was not how to encourage it, but rather how to meet demand. In Western Australia alone, the number of registered players has increased by more than 10% in the last 12 months between the 2010 and 2011 seasons.

Having attended the FFA's AGM earlier in the week and commenting on the Review, The Hon Bob Kucera, Chairman of Football West stated: "It was pleasing to see Frank Lowy re-elected as President to continue the stable and visionary direction he has taken the World Game in Australia. Our entry into the Asian Football Confederation highlighted his unswerving commitment to put Australia on the world stage, but it was particularly encouraging to see the emphasis he is now placing on growing the game at the grass-roots level. I think this heralds a new era for the sport right across the nation and on behalf of Football West I congratulate Frank, the Board, and the entire team at FFA.

"Whilst in Sydney I also had the good fortune of catching up with my former political colleague, and the author of the Review, the Hon Warwick Smith who was Federal Minister for Sport whilst I was WA Minister for Sport and Recreation. I took the occasion to invite Warwick, who is also head of the Australian Sports Commission to meet with Football West when next in Perth to hear of some of our plans particularly as they relate to our vision for our Asian relationships."

Football West will be outlining some of its plans for the future in grass roots football at its AGM on the 14th December at BGC Stadium - Dorrien Gardens, Perth at 7pm.

The Full Report and further information can be found at [www.dpmc.gov.au/sport/resources/reports/football\\_review.cfm](http://www.dpmc.gov.au/sport/resources/reports/football_review.cfm)

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