

The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Organisation

Entry ID: AWE2254

National Fitness Council of South Australia

(1939 - 1975)

Born 1 January, 1939, South Australia Australia

Died 31 December, 1975

Occupation Sporting Organisation

Summary

The National Fitness Council of South Australia was a government advisory body established in 1939 that alerted individuals to the importance of gaining physical fitness, and encouraged community interest in open space and the “Quality of Environment.” In 1976 the Council was taken over by the Department of Tourism, Recreation and Sport.

Details

From its inception the National Fitness Council offered women a decided role in the organization and promotion of recreation in South Australia. As most of its programmes were sex segregated, administrative and practical positions for women within the agency were assured.

The Council continued to play a major role in fostering women’s sport in the post-war years. It provided coaching assistance in a variety of sports (including tennis, athletics, hockey, netball and was also instrumental in organizing and promoting new team sports. It was responsible for the formation of the South Australian Amateur Gymnastic Association in 1952, and the introduction of softball, cricket and court cricket to girls’ schools. In 1941, the Council expanded its activities outside the country areas into rural and regional South Australia.

Through the provision of financial and administrative assistance, played a major role in the formation of the South Australian Women’s Amateur Sports Council which, in turn, was important in providing suitable playing grounds for women’s sport. Repeated attempts by the National Fitness Council and the South Australian Women’s Amateur Sports Council to get government assistance were partially rewarded in 1952 when the state government donated 19 acres of land for the development of a women’s sports field. This was the area that would become known as the South Australian Women’s Memorial Playing Fields.

Published resources

Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Thesis

A Fair Go?: Women in Sport in South Australia: 1945 - 1965, Randall, Leonie M., 1986,
<http://www.aaflo.org/SportsLibrary/ASSHSSH/ASSHSSH06.pdf>

Site Exhibition

She's Game: Women Making Australian Sporting History, Australian Women's Archives Project, 2007,
<http://www.womenaustralia.info/exhib/sg/sport-home.html>

Archival resources

State Records of South Australia

[Miscellaneous records - National Fitness Council?National Fitness Council records?National Fitness Council records](#)

State Library of South Australia

[Papers relating to the National Fitness Council of South Australia](#)

Author Details

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Created 12 January 2007

Last modified 20 November 2018