

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**Leveling the playing field: Lyrebird Foundation and Western Sydney University unite to advance women's cricket**



A transformative new chapter in women's cricket is unfolding as Western Sydney University has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Lyrebird Foundation to advance opportunities for women through cricket.

Based in Australia with a global reach, Lyrebird is at the forefront of transforming women's cricket, using sport to drive social change, promote gender equality, and empower women and girls from diverse backgrounds.

The Foundation is on a mission to set up a Lyrebird International Academy for Women's Cricket at Western Sydney University's Campbelltown campus. This groundbreaking initiative, led and delivered by the Lyrebird Foundation, is set to break down barriers and empower women globally across all facets of the sport.

A key focus of the partnership between Lyrebird Foundation and Western Sydney University will be the development of a Diploma course, providing students with a unique opportunity to combine academic study with elite cricket development.

The two organisations will be exploring opportunities to collaboratively establish education and leadership pathways for women to excel both on and off the field, with a particular focus on nurturing talent from Indigenous communities.

Western Sydney University has been named number one in the world for its social, economic and environmental impact in the prestigious 2025 Times Higher Education (THE) University Impact Rankings for an unprecedented fourth year in a row. The University was ranked 7th in the world for Gender Equality, as part of its commitment to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

As part of the new partnership, opportunities will be created to stage Lyrebird Domestic and International Women's Cricket fixtures at University grounds, providing the local community with greater access to high-level women's sport.

**Quotes attributable to Western Sydney University Chancellor, Professor Jennifer Westacott AC:**

*"Western Sydney University is delighted to partner with the Lyrebird Foundation. This partnership aligns with the University's mission to empower individuals through education and create lasting social change."*

*"The Lyrebird International Academy for Women's Cricket will not only create opportunities in sport but also open pathways to stable employment and leadership roles for women globally."*

**Quotes attributable to Shaun Martyn, Chair of the Lyrebird Foundation:**

*"The Lyrebird International Academy for Women's Cricket is more than just a cricket program - it's a platform for empowerment. We're creating opportunities for women from diverse backgrounds to lead, inspire, and change the future of cricket."*

*"Our vision is a future where gender is no barrier to success in cricket. With a Board that includes cricket legends like Meg Lanning and Geoff 'Henry' Lawson, we are working tirelessly to make this vision a reality. This partnership with Western Sydney University is a significant step toward achieving our mission."*

*"We're working tirelessly to close the gap in pay, resources, sponsorship, and recognition between men's and women's cricket. We invite individuals, businesses, and organisations to stand with us. By supporting the Lyrebird Foundation, you are investing in a future of equality, excellence, and opportunity for women in sport."*

**Quote attributable to Australian cricket icon and Lyrebird Foundation Director Meg Lanning:**

*"The Lyrebird International Academy for Women's Cricket is an exciting step forward for the sport. It's about creating opportunities for women to thrive, not just as athletes but as leaders in every aspect of cricket. I'm proud to be part of an initiative that's working to break down barriers and build a stronger, more inclusive future for women in cricket."*

For more information on how you can support the important work of Lyrebird Foundation visit <https://lyrebirdfoundation.org/>

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### **About the Lyrebird Foundation**

Based in Australia with a global reach, Lyrebird is at the forefront of transforming women's cricket, using sport to drive social change, promote gender equality, and empower women and girls from diverse backgrounds. Through advocacy, education and training, research, inclusivity and opportunity creation Lyrebird Foundation is proud to be levelling the playing field.

For more information visit <https://lyrebirdfoundation.org/>

### **About Western Sydney University**

Western Sydney University is embedded in the communities and region it serves, and is fundamental to the economic, cultural and social life of Western Sydney – one of the fastest-growing, most economically important and most culturally-diverse regions within Australia. With a network of sites and teaching campuses across Western Sydney and beyond, Western Sydney University has 50,000 students, 3,000 staff, and a strong cohort – both locally and globally – of more than 200,000 alumni.

The University has a long and proud history of increasing higher education participation and opening up educational opportunities to students who have the drive, ambition and dedication to succeed, particularly for individuals from diverse and lower socio-economic backgrounds. Ranked in the top 2% of universities worldwide, the University has been named number one in the world for its social, ecological and economic impact in the Times Higher Education (THE) University Impact Rankings four years in a row.

For more information visit <https://www.westernsydney.edu.au>