# Video: Brendan Taylor’s podcast

## Transcript

## Brendan Taylor, Community sports worker at Gentown Community and Business Hub speaking

**The challenges of gender inequality in sport.**

Hello my name is Brendan Taylor and I’m a Community Sports Worker here at GCBH.

I’ve been working in the sports industry for many years.

I love most sports, but it’s fair to say that I feel most at home in the pool or on the tennis court. It’s a bit of a passion really.

You might have noticed from my accent that I’m not from around here. I’m originally from Britain, but I’ve been here for a couple of years and I love it.

I wanted to talk with you today about something important that I’ve been working to change throughout my career. And that’s gender inequality in sport.

Before I go on, I want to share with you that I’m a trans man. While I happily live my life as a university educated and accomplished man in my mid 30’s, my passport still says I’m a woman.

There is still a long way to go before there is gender equality for trans and gender diverse people. And unfortunately, it has given me the unique perspective to have seen and experienced the many challenges faced by women and gender diverse people in this industry.

Women’s sports never seem to attract the same amount of support or funding as the men’s counterparts. The Australian Bureau of Statistics report that the average full-time annual income for sportsmen is around $67,000 while for sportswomen it is only $43,000. That’s a gap of $24,000 or 35%. And the pay gap just gets bigger for the top tier athletes. That’s nearly half it’s really not acceptable!

I’ll put a link in the credits to an interesting article by the Workplace Gender Equality Agency that’s all about the good, bad and ridiculous state of equality in sport in 2019. You should check it out.

You’d be surprised how many sporting grounds have no female change rooms. And if they do, they’re most likely in really poor condition compared to the male change rooms.

I noticed that while women’s soccer teams are often coached by men, you’ll rarely find a female soccer coach leading a men’s team.

One sports centre I worked at many years ago seemed to find plenty of budget to invest in lights for the football field but unsurprisingly they ran out of funds for the netball courts.

I’ve heard sexist language being directed at female umpires during football matches. And as a younger man, I experienced the worst of locker room talk. I’m not going to repeat the awful, sexist things these men said about women.

I’m ashamed to say that at the time I was shocked but I didn’t say anything. I just tried to ignore it. But as you could imagine, I wasn’t keen on identifying myself as a trans man in that toxic environment.

Now, all these years later, I’d like to think that I am more confident to speak up and challenge that kind of behaviour.

We know that the best way to challenge inequality, and make the most of opportunities to create change, is by everyone doing their bit. It’s the same, whether you’re on a team or part of a workplace.

We all have a responsibility and a role in making sport, and the workplace, a more inclusive, safe and healthy place for all genders.

**Links for credits:**

Workplace Gender Equality Agency: <https://www.wgea.gov.au/2019-the-defining-year-for-equality-in-sport>

Women’s Health Victoria, Working with Workplaces; Challenges and Opportunities for Workplace violence prevention and bystander programs: <https://whv.org.au/resources/whv-publications/working-workplaces-challenges-and-opportunities-workplace-violence>

VicHealth, Female participation in sport evidence summary: <https://www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/-/media/ResourceCentre/PublicationsandResources/Physical-activity/Female_participation_in_sport_Evidence_Aug15.pdf?la=en&hash=AE1C47144789571FFE0C6F5E8000BF592605908D>

VicHealth Quick wins for sports clubs increasing women’s participation: <https://www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/media-and-resources/publications/quick-wins-for-sports-clubs>