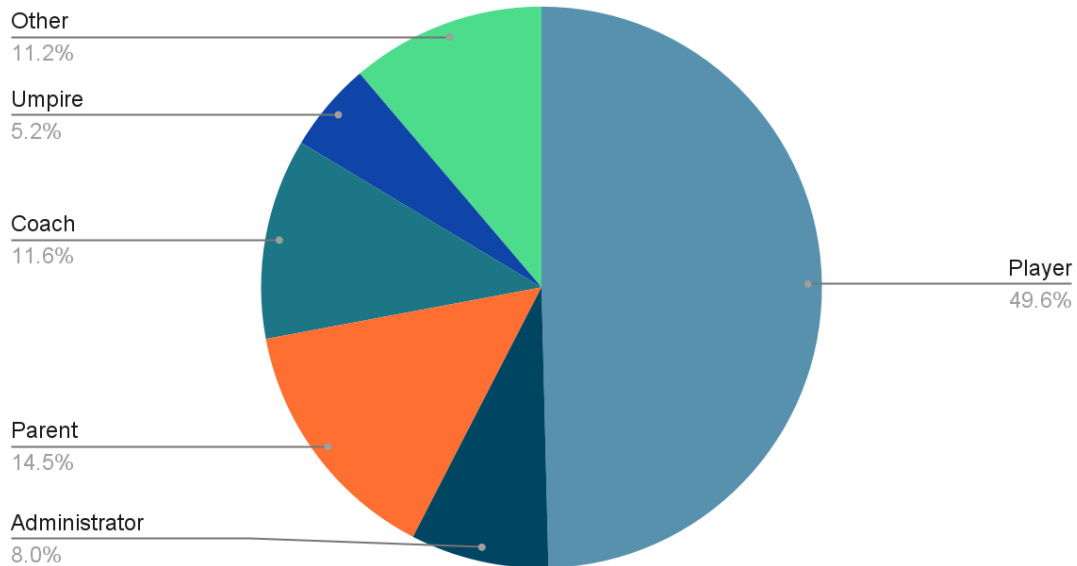


# Have your say about male participation in Netball

Question 1: Are you currently involved in Netball? In what capacity?

## Association to Netball



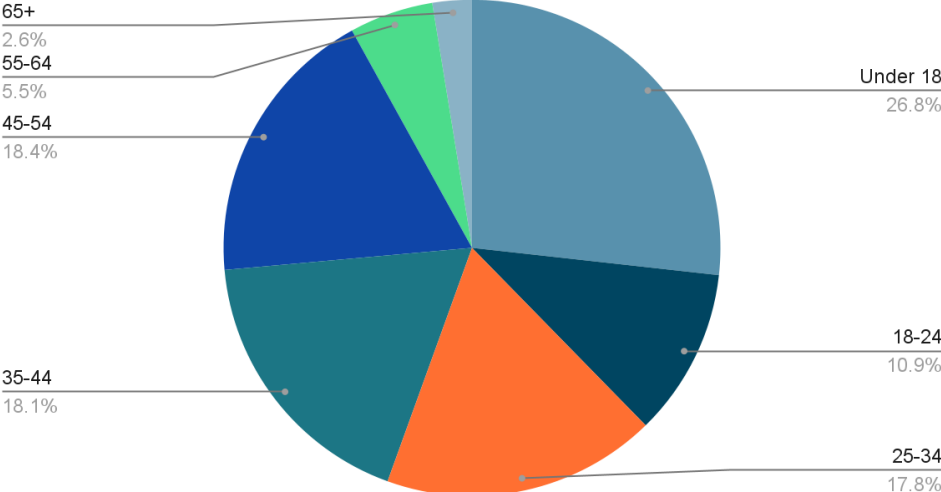
Other: 100 responses:  
50% were multiple answers  
20% were fans/spectators

Others were:

- Volunteer
- Manager
- No connection
- Friend of player
- Management Committee Member
- Board member
- Centre committee member
- Centre Manager
- Principal of Primary school
- Centre Manager
- Scorer
- Grandparent

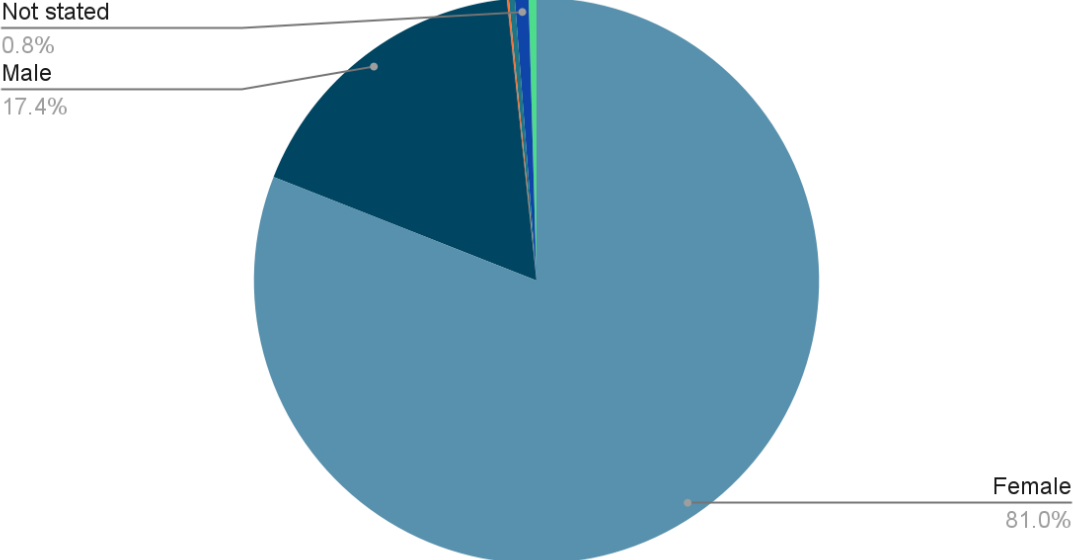
Question 2: Age Bracket

Age Bracket



Question 3: Gender Identity

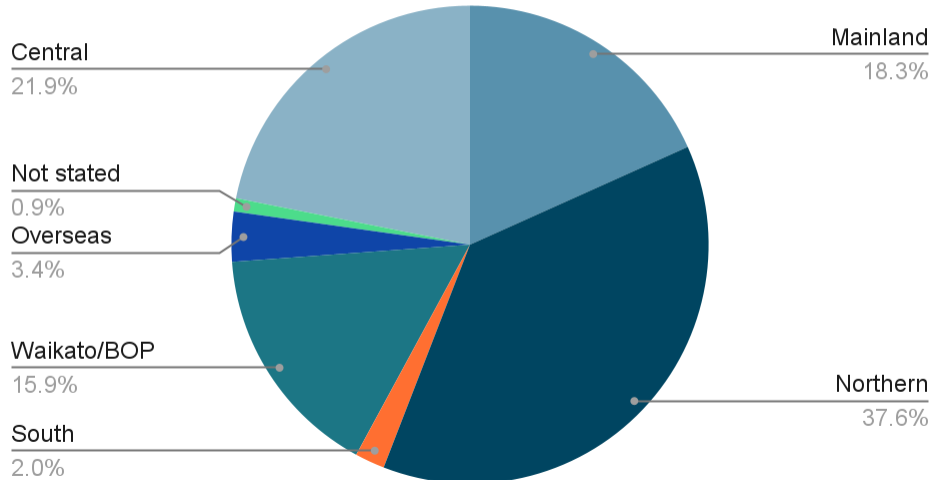
Gender Identity



\*The categories not shown easily: Transgender, non binary, gender fluid

#### Question 4: Netball Centre or Region

### Netball Centre or Region



#### Question 5: How do you think we can increase participation opportunities for boys and men?

School boy competitions for boys no longer able to play in girls teams

Involvement past the age it goes to now- past year 8

Silver ferns/men's team doing workshops, promoting it

Advertising

Creating men's league, mixed league

Breaking down the stigma

Exposure of the mens netball on tv

Create mixed and boys only grades

More awareness for boys and men

Create a pathway

Promotion, contacting male only schools, more coverage of men's netball

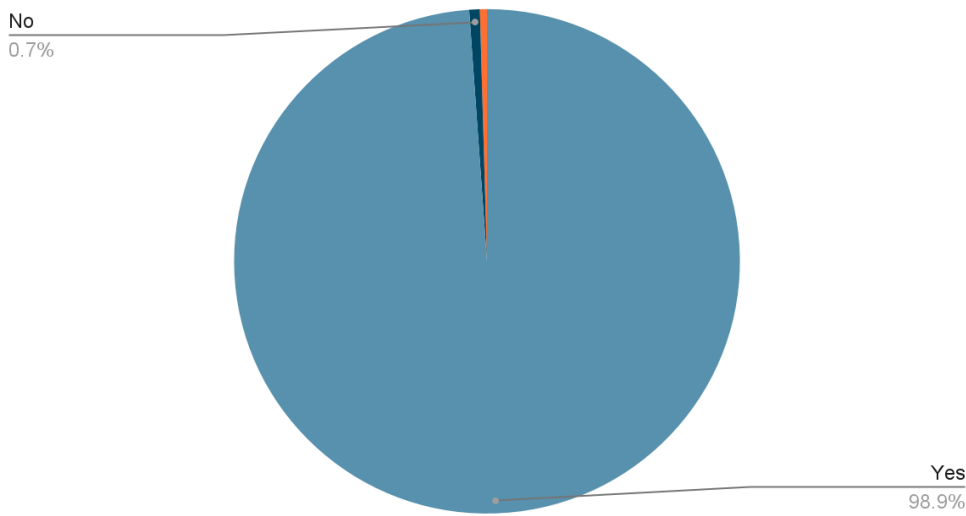
Make it as accessible and easy for them as possible

Continue inclusion at national and centre levels- create opportunities at zone level.

Have a go days

#### Question 6: Should boys and men play Netball

## Should boys and men play Netball



Due to people struggling with the 0-100 scale rather than 1-5 I've overviewed people's answers and categorised them manually. Almost 99% believe men and boys should be able to play but in the results there is a range of answers from 0-100 because lots of people were wondering if the question meant in female competitions or play in general.

\*The category in orange I labelled 'have concerns' and their comments are below:

Not an equal match, physically, for the girls. They are rough on the court, especially for the younger aged teams

I don't think they want to. You need to focus on getting females to stay in the sport of netball first by not having such high fees.

I think men have had opportunities to play any sport they wish and as such they dominate most sports in terms of participation, sponsorship, television coverage, funding, promotion, and spectator following. Netball is virtually the only sport on which women dominate. Let's leave it that way. We live in a male world. Let us at least keep our netball.

Girls safe sport. Don't think competing with boys will keep the sport same safe levels

Question 7: If you picked strongly disagree- should men and boys play netball- please comment why?

too PC world. netball is for girls
I think boys & men can play corporate or fun "Indoor Netball", but competitive outdoor Netball should be ALL about women. Men have enough high profile sports if you ask me. Now they want to take over Netball too. I do believe in gender equality(soccer/hockey/sailing/tennis etc), but not many girls want to play Rugby? Or can even try for All Blacks. Guess I get sick of the male macho culture about highly paid Rugby, and lack of focus by men talking about women's sports.
I feel that Netball is one of the only Woman dominated sports out there and I am simply worried if we bring a lot of men into it, it could mean less opportunities for woman in the sport
Leave the girls alone.

Question 8: If there are concerns among some players about the impact of boys and men playing Netball. How do you think those concerns can be addressed?

If boys are encouraged to play from a young age then this will help instill game rules
I think if you have confident umpires who keep the game under control will help with the worries that some females have with the physicality that makes can bring
Understand those concerns and address them just like anything else
There could be an awareness programs to address such concerns
Fairness equity inclusiveness. Include men n centre committees etc. get them involved
Clear ratio rules for mixed grades to ensure safety. Ensuring that promotion of mens/boys netball isn't at the expense of the women/girls game. Netball feels like one of the few sports where women/girls aren't the second class citizens, so it's important not to lose that.

Understand the concerns so they can be addressed, follow up on valid concerns, eg safety, ignore concerns that are unhealthy, eg homophobia or gender discrimination

Exactly how concerns are addressed with Womens Netball. Rules and regulations

In order for Netball to grow, people need to change their ideology & attitudes & be more accepting of boys/men playing netball. I think every Netball Centre should reach out to their Netball community to gauge potential concerns & inevitably report back to their respective zone. Netball NZ could then hold a zoom meeting with every zone to discuss concerns collated. With each Zone then reporting back to their Centres with answers.

Better support sounds boys and men players

Netball has traditionally been a safe space for girls and women, and that needs to be respected - but the conversation could be more about diversity and inclusion

Discussion, open conversation. Conversation and planning. Constant evaluation

Education, training, practical integration of playing against 'females' ie 1/2/3 per team - one per third etc

Information and protect the single gender competitions. I think people will be worried about their teams or children missing spots in teams due to the physicality differences/advantages

By not having mixed teams above under 12 age group. The physical difference is to great.

It will take many years of promotion to get numbers up to the point there can be boys/men competitions. Care must be taken with the level of physical contest, and women should not have to play against a male team in a female competition if they don't want to - in this situation a male team should not be eligible for competition points anyway. A grade off to the side for mixed teams is what I would recommend

By having their own competition, league or an optional mixed league.

Playing with men teaches you to assert yourself and adjust your style of play. You naturally don't play the same as you would when playing against other females. As do the men, they adjust their style when playing against females. Unsure what else is meant by impact? ..the impact can only be positive

Question 9: Would you continue to play in a Netball competition if boys and men were able to participate?

Question 10: If you picked strongly disagree, please comment why.

Results do not represent people's views as they didn't understand the scale nor whether it meant in a female competition or mixed.

Question 11: Do you think female participation will decrease if boys and men are allowed to play in female competitions?

0- strongly disagree      100-strongly agree

382 people were in the strongly disagree bracket between 0-20

185 people were in the middle bracket between 40-60

136 people were in the strongly agree bracket between 80-100

Question 12: If you strongly agree please comment why?

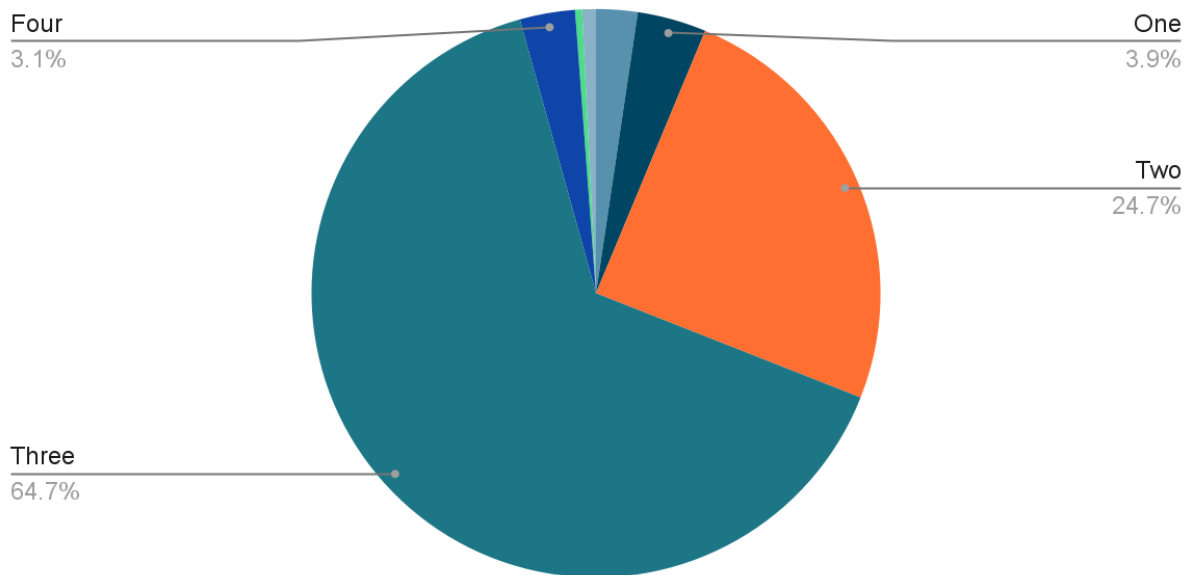
Difference in physical size
Strength advantage
Height advantage
Body contact
Physicality of game- physical advantage
Worried for injury
Scared and intimidated by males
Ethical, cultural, religious and personal reasons
Worried netball culture might change- sisterhood culture
Girls only schools disadvantaged
College age issues- confidence and competence
Adolescents being body conscious, embarrassed, boys being a distraction

The positives to allowing men and boys to play in the female competitions were:

Sense of whanau
Community feeling if for everyone
Pushes women- (from experience x2 people)
Boys and men playing netball will grow the sport and skills
More inclusive for families

Question 13: If mixed teams were permitted to play in women's competitions, how many male players do you think should be allowed on court?

If mixed teams were permitted to play in women's competitions, how many male players?



\*On top of these results a huge portion said with 2-3 or 3-4 players.



Question 14: What do you feel would be the ideal outcome to increase access and participation to Netball for all people, no matter where they live, or what their gender?

At the end of the day kids are now more inactive than ever. Drives in schools are key to get kids started in this sport. Get role models visiting schools and weekend games which gets kids excited
Junior netball is the key, making it fun
Affordable- Make the sport accessible to all. At the moment the fee's are so high that that alone is a barrier to anyone wanting to play.
Pathways for all players
Accessible
Whanau teams, social teams, mixed ages teams
Be more open and accepting of the male game and embrace what they bring to it.
Great more games broadcasted on national TV
Mens only, mixed comp, womens only, open comp- anything goes
Flexible game times
Make a clear and consistent decision that is the same nationwide that embraces participation from little kids right through to senior and premier netball
Sports stars of all genders and races advertise on TV how netball is a great game
I feel there needs to be somewhere for young boys to be able to play netball, whether it be a boys school league or a mixed league. We just need somewhere for them to keep playing.
First, stop thinking that participation is about where you live or gender. Isn't it about providing opportunities (as much as practical) to anyone that wants to participate? Maybe that is modified games for those with disabilities, maybe it is dedicated male competitions, maybe its walking netball, maybe mixed competitions, probably social competitions, maybe its about lowering the barrier to participation through making the rules easier to understand and officiate. I think being honest about why you want to increase participation numbers and in what demographics will drive how you address this. To be honest, I'm not really sure what NNZ's role is in this, because if it doesn't have a performance program that results in a professional team that can win international competitions - do you even have an interest?
I believe some restrictions in how many males are on court in a mixed grade, but also some drive to get an all male grade going once at college.
More encouragement from NNZ that would filter down to the netball centres
Removing people that are discriminating and allow people to participate across all centres
That the centre can provide for the needs of all participants with equity

Everyone that loves the sport is involved and treated equally.

Creating mixed and then a boys grade. Getting everyone involved by giving the supporters a realisation check about the netball community evolving

Question 15: Do you have any other comments about boys and men playing Netball?

The game is developing and the times are changing, and I think netball needs to move and adapt to those times

There should be an international pathway that is accepted and embraced by the world body!

I have no issue with boys and men playing netball. I do have an issue if they play in female competitions because participation numbers are low (which seems to me to be why this happens) - unless it is a mixed comp where the females have made the choice to participate. I would also have a problem if the male game was prioritised over the female game - because there are plenty of issues still to be resolved in the female game. I don't have a problem if they are to be treated equally however. Netball has been around in NZ for almost 100 years. So we have had almost 100 years of blood, sweat and tears to get the game of Netball in NZ to where it is today. What we probably need to do is reflect on some of the lessons we learnt about how to attract players, and apply them to the male version of the game - I'm not sure its reasonable for a minority (I say that, because if there were more, there would be more competitions) of males to complain, that essentially, because other males don't want to play, they should be allowed to play in female competitions. I'm not sure you hear (at least I don't) about the female players participating in rugby and hockey for example, complaining that they have to merge schools to have enough numbers to form a team to play in the local female comp - which I know happens. They certainly (on the whole) don't ask to play in the male comps - that should probably tell us something. Perhaps more work is required to attract male players, so they can have their own competitions and pathways.

Think this is well overdue, but it can be done without diluting the female leagues. Might need to think differently tho, so might not be enough teams at one centre or school, it might be that they need to travel until the numbers come up. Or short seasons until the numbers come up.

It needs to be embraced!

Get going, provide the competition options they need. It may take time, it will happen though. Looks at other sports, how they did it and what types of comps they provide. You have the ideal sport for everyone to be able to play at one venue, that is a selling point for any family.

Love it!!! Do it!!! More players ...more fun!!!

We need to welcome them in and make them feel like they belong. I entered a boys team for our school at another netball centre and the opposition (mostly parents) complained about

them, making them feel unwelcome and out of place. That needs to stop.

It's not fair to have to stop playing after year 8, so the boys need a pathway to continue playing. If there's not enough numbers for boys/men only, run mixed, but do something to allow those interested to have an outlet

I think men and boys should be welcome to play netball. They bring a new dimension to the game such as agility and strength - but this doesn't mean women can't play against them. There just needs to be an opt in/out approach for women.

What is the reason for this? Do you need to increase the number of male players? If you are making it equitable; - Are there changing rooms for males? - Can Netball NZ afford to provide male professional teams? - Are there playing coaching pathways established? - Will there be male age-grade tournaments like the girls? - Secondary school regional and nationals?

We do not want the same thing happening here as in Australia with the male team playing in the female comp and spectators were abusive to the male team as well as some female players lost their confidence and passion to play netball. Ensure we have a progressive approach to including males in netball first.

I manage/umpire Intermediate grade & sad to see our Year8 boys who love netball have no avenue to carry on. If there was - I think the game would evolve to another level

I think its great and gets the sport more exposure and helps break the toxic masculinity of boys should play rugby

Men physically and skilfully play a different type of game to women and from previous experiences and injuries from playing against men, less safe for women.

Every sport started off as a mens team sport. Women went out and grew and created their female competitions. They played in boys teams to start off with when they were children/teens, but their clubs and associations put effort into **MARKETING THEIR GENDER** in the sport to grow the numbers they needed for their own competition which all ages now benefit from - cricket, rugby & league are more modern examples of their success. The Men need to be doing the same for themselves.

The Cadbury series has highlighted the skills men bring to netball. Yes let them join but not to the detriment of women's netball as it stands. Number of teams at ANC have been decreasing year on year, what has been done to address this?

As a centre manager we found it very difficult to introduce our Under 14 and Under 16 mixed teams into the fold in 2021. Most centres did accomodate us as best they could but not many had taken the steps to introduce mixed teams into their own programmes. We did run a free mixed college competition last year with minimal interest, however we did increase the participation with 9 males taking part in our Under 14 and 16 Rep programme.

If this goes ahead the other issue will be the umpires would need to upskill, males can jump higher than most woman and my experience shows that the umpires are unable to officiate males, i think its because males do things that female players dont do. I really hope that male participation in netball becomes more of a thing in the future.

I think it should be a thing of the future. Women play in Mens competition and it should be allowed as long as there is provision for safety practises as well to avoid injuries

Pathways are important after the age of 12- year 8

Transitioning our game will not be easy and I think there should be lots of opportunity to trial changes openly with lots of communication in the relevant community. Centres should be given opportunity and support to move this to the next stage. We absolutely need to include boys and men. It would be really important to understand and recognize consequences quickly and be nimble enough that we can adjust.

The rugby model works incredibly well in this space targeting kids at primary school and high school as well as diversifying for adults, eg playing on Sundays so women can participate in both netball and rugby. Something to look at perhaps?

Its great to get them in young, so the stigma of playing a 'girls' sport hasn't kicked in.

One of the things I have noticed when I play netball, is how I am perceived. For example when I make contact with another player, I think it is often viewed as me being aggressive when we all know that contact is apart of the game. I have also heard comments from parents on the sideline about watching out for the boy. I think sometimes I am unfairly judged as a boy even though I am no bigger or stronger than lots of the other girls I play against. I think another big issue is how netball is promoted through advertising. If you do a google search for netball almost 100% of the pictures are all of woman. If you go to the New Zealand netball website and go to the photo gallery, all of the pictures are of female players. There are no pictures or advertising that males can play the game.

I love this sport. I play, I coach and I try to always let netball be the winner. Boys and mens deserve to play this sport. It would be great for more tv exposure as I think people would really love our product. I'm really appreciative that our national netball body is looking at mens and mixed netball and is trying to make a difference. Thanks so much!

Definitely encourage it. My son played for a few years and then found it wasn't "cool" because he was the only boy on the team / in the league and none of his friends played. Having a league where it is normal for boys to be playing would definitely help

#### Common themes:

- Mixed grade/league/competition etc and/or mens grade completely separate from females was extremely prevalent.

- To get inspiration from sports such as rugby, soccer and hockey in terms of separate competitions for males and females.
- “Male dominated sports have welcomed women into their sport, netball needs to do the same for men. It is also a way of keeping our sport alive.”
- A huge amount of support for men and boys to play netball as long as the separate grade- females want to be given the choice to play against all females or mixed or all males.
- To get boys playing at a young age and to have pathways for them to be able to continue for life like females.
- Example to be set by NNZ that will filter down to grass roots. Break down the stigma that netball is only for females.
- No compromise to be made to the female game or their safety, enjoyment or confidence whilst developing the male game.
- The world is evolving Netball should also