



# WESTERN SYDNEY GIANTS JUNIORS

## CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS

Congratulations to all clubs and teams on a fantastic 2017 Western Sydney GIANTS Juniors competition! Now that we have reached the end of the regular season it is a great opportunity for our competition to recognise our successes this year.

It has been a massive year for our region with 156 teams competing in 1269 games of football across 16 rounds. We had over 2700 participants playing from Under 9s to Under 18s Youth Girls and over 1200 players participating in Auskick for this year. The growth in our competition is one of the highest rates across all of Australia!

2017 we introduced 2 new competitions, Under 12s Youth Girls and Under 18s Youth Girls. Both these competitions have been great to watch, introduced 14 new teams to our great game and contributed to over 65% growth in female participation.

We also welcomed a new club, Fairfield JAFV into Season 2 of the Under 9s competition and they will continue to grow next with more teams forecast for 2018 and beyond.

Other highlights from this year across our region include –

- GWS GIANTS Club Nights at Greenway Park, GIANTS HQ and Blacktown International Sportspark

- Auskick gala days throughout the season

- Under 9s gala day to wrap up Season 1

- Over 350 Western Sydney Players represented their region in the AFL Sydney Juniors Representative Football Carnival over the June Long Weekend

- Half Time Auskick participants at GWS GIANTS home games

- Western Sydney GIANTS Juniors Regional Ball with over 120 club members in attendance

- Over 1000 players participate in the Junior Club March at the GWS GIANTS v Gold Coast Suns match

- Player Ambassador Visits from the GWS GIANTS

I would like to personally thank each and every volunteer who has contributed to getting teams on the park each week and running match days at your venues. This game would not happen without the support of our great volunteers. Each and every club has worked extremely hard and put in some very long hours to ensure that our kids have the best experience when they run out to play their games.

Thank you to all the parents and carers of our young players for getting them to training and AFL games every Sunday.

I would also like to thank the 2017 Regional Committee for all their efforts in ensuring that this competition continues to move forward. The tireless work you have all put in to administering this competition is invaluable.

Thank you to the umpiring group for their efforts throughout the season. It has been great to see the growth in numbers of umpires this year and I can't wait to continue to work with you all in preparation for our 2018 season.

Good luck to all teams participating in the upcoming finals series and also to all clubs hosting the finals. We are excited for 3 more great weeks of football before we can wrap up this season.

Again THANK YOU for taking the time to develop and grow our great game and ensure that we get as many young people as we can playing AFL every weekend.

Sean Hogan – Western Sydney GIANTS Juniors Chairman