

TUESDAY 7 JUNE 2022

**Core programme launched for the
8th IWG World Conference on Women & Sport – November 2022
Pre-event Virtual Showcase Announced**

Ka puta Matariki, ka rere Whānui. Ko te tohu tēnā o te tau e!

**The stars re-appear to take flight. Matariki brings good fortune,
positive change and prosperity through new beginnings.**

The core programme for the 8th IWG World Conference on Women & Sport has been launched by Women in Sport Aotearoa, *Ngā Wāhine Hākinakina o Aotearoa* (WISPA) today, timed to celebrate the reappearance of the *kāhui whetū* (star cluster), Matariki, this month.

Over **220+ sessions and almost 500 international speakers have been confirmed** for the world's largest gathering to advance gender equity and equality in sport and physical activity. Several major international speakers will also be announced before the Earlybird deadline, 31 July 2022.

The hybrid event will take place in Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland and Online, from Monday 14 to Thursday 17 November 2022. Over **1,200+ international participants are expected to attend in person, with hundreds joining virtually** via a world class conferencing system.

With the event dovetailing into the women's Rugby World Cup, **Aotearoa New Zealand will be the epicentre of women's sport globally** throughout November. World Rugby itself has committed a large delegation to the IWG World Conference, after agreeing a strategic relationship with WISPA.

Presenters confirmed today include some of the world's most influential sport and physical activity organisations, plus advocacy groups, governments, business, media and academia. This includes the **International Olympic Committee (IOC)**; **FIFA** and the **2023 FIFA Women's World Cup** team; Billie Jean King's **Women's Sport Foundation**; and the **UNESCO Global Observatory for Gender Equality in Sport**. Several of the brightest leaders from Aotearoa and APAC have also been confirmed.

Raewyn Lovett ONZM, Co-Chair of the International Working Group (IWG) on Women & Sport said: *“For centuries, people have navigated by the stars. Navigation through our core programme has been designed using the kāhui whetū (star cluster) Matariki as a framework, after this was gifted to us by our Roopu, He Wāhine Toa Kei Te Kokiri – Strong Women Making a Move.*

In Māori culture, the reappearance of Matariki heralds new beginnings and is a predictor of good fortune, positive change and prosperity. To launch our core programme today just as Matariki is re-appearing seems almost prophetic, as the world emerges from COVID-19. Now is the time to come together to drive true equity for women and girls in global sport and physical activity.”

The core programme can now be viewed at www.iwgworldconference.org/programme.

>> Join the free “Inspire Showcase” virtually on Tuesday 12 July 2022 – NZT:

Registrations will open shortly for a free 1-hour test event, designed for participants planning to join the IWG World Conference virtually this November. Experience the online platform **LIVE IN ACTION!**

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Three 8-minute insights will be delivered live, followed by inspiring conversations in the online networking rooms. Learn to navigate the platform. Test the interactive tools. Join the chats. Gain a sense of the programme being planned, and how participants will be able to engage virtually.

Speakers will include:

- **Dr. Farah Palmer** (*Tainui, Ngāti Maniapoto*), one of Aotearoa New Zealand's most successful rugby players. Now an esteemed academic at Massey University, and Deputy Chair of New Zealand Rugby, Dr. Palmer will discuss the use of indigenous culture by sporting organisations.
- **Dr Diane Culver**. An associate professor at the School of Human Kinetics at the University of Ottawa, Dr Culver is a renowned expert in social learning theory. She will discuss how social learning will aid personal and professional development during the IWG World Conference.
- **Robyn Cockburn**. A consultant researcher, strategist, facilitator and educator with 25 years' experience globally and in Aotearoa New Zealand, Ms Cockburn will give an overview of the IWG World Conference design principles and will explain what to expect, both in person and online.

Registrations will open in mid-June.

**Pauline Harrison, Chair of the IWG Programming Team, said:** *"The IWG World Conference on Women & Sport typically attracts a wide range of women and men from around the world, from Board Directors and CEOs, through to delivery agents, administrators and volunteers.*

*The variety of content programmed will allow participants to navigate an individualised experience, choosing sessions and collaborative opportunities that best suit their personal and professional development needs.*

*We're thrilled to be able to offer a hybrid event for the first time in IWG history, enabling access to the event for an even wider range of participants from around the world. Attending the Inspire Showcase will give people a fantastic idea of what to expect when they join us in November."*

>> ENDS

Read the full launch story on the WISPA website:

<https://womeninsport.org.nz/core-programme-launched-for-iwg-2022-november-2022/>

Find out more and register as an Individual, Group or Delegation now:

[www.iwgworldconference.org](http://www.iwgworldconference.org)

Visit the Group Delegation Hub to find out more about packages and discounts:

[www.iwgwomenandsport.org/iwg-2022-group-registrations-available-now](http://www.iwgwomenandsport.org/iwg-2022-group-registrations-available-now)

Earlybird closes 31 July 2022.

## MEDIA ACCREDITATION PROGRAMME

Women in Sport Aotearoa will be running a full media programme across all four days of the IWG World Conference on Women & Sport. Pre-register your interest with Peta Forrest, details below.

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MEDIA APPENDIX

>> About the 8th IWG World Conference on Women & Sport core programme:

The IWG World Conference is a catalyst for advancing positive change. Hosted all over the world since 1994, including most recently in Botswana and Helsinki, the 8th edition this November is on course to deliver the most unique participant experience yet. Designed and hosted by **Women in Sport Aotearoa, Ngā Wāhine Hākinakina o Aotearoa (WISPA)**, the IWG Secretariat 2018 – 2022, it has complete support from the New Zealand government through Sport New Zealand, Ihi Aotearoa.

The global programming team, consisting of **more than 150+ members from over 30 countries**, has identified five global conference themes, to then be examined through seven contemporary lenses.

The core programme announcement has been timed to celebrate the reappearance of the *kāhui whetū* (star cluster), Matariki, this month. Also known as the Pleiades or the Seven Sisters, this *kāhui whetū* is known the world over, and each whetū holds special meaning in Māori culture.

Each of the five conference themes has been aligned to a Matariki whetū:

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| 1. Leadership | Whetū – Matariki, the Mother of all Stars
<i>Empowering women to lead systems change.</i> |
| 2. Social Change | Whetū – Ururangi, the Winds of the Sky
<i>Championing social movements and experiences.</i> |
| 3. Active Lives | Whetū – Waipunarangi, the Rains of Change
<i>Enabling the enjoyment of active lives.</i> |
| 4. High Performance | Whetū – Hiwa-i-te-rangi, the Promise of Prosperity
<i>Supporting women to excel at the highest global levels.</i> |
| 5. Visibility and Voice | Whetū – Tipuārangī, The Successful Harvest
<i>Growing the value and influence of women and girls.</i> |

Lenses: Indigeneity; Technology, Data & Innovation; Health and Wellbeing; Systems, Resources and Investment; Environmental Sustainability; Human Rights; and Integrity.

The delivery format is based on social learning principles inspired by the beautiful Māori concepts of **Manaakitanga** (extending compassion), **Kaitiakitanga** (giving freely), and **Whanaungatanga** (creating connections). Storytelling exists at its very heart, including short lightning talks, group discussions, in-depth workshops and plenty of time for like-minded participants to collectively create solutions.

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Most of the conference will be fully interactive, both in person and online. It will focus on collaboration, practical application, insights from a range of perspectives and on designing positive solutions to address inequities for women and girls in sport and physical activity globally. Workshops will be facilitated by group leaders covering both theory and practice.

Note: The Core Programme may be subject to change ahead of the live event, 14 – 17 November 2022.

>> **Example speakers announced onto the core programme:**

Presenters confirmed today come from some of the **world's most influential sport and physical activity organisations, plus advocacy groups, governments, business, media and academia.**

Examples include:

- The International Olympic Committee (IOC) – global
- FIFA / the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup – global
- The Council of Europe – Europe
- Billie Jean King's Women's Sport Foundation – North America
- The UNESCO Global Observatory for Gender Equality in Sport – global
- Women in Sport India – Asia
- The International Wheelchair Rugby Federation – global
- Juntendo University / Japanese Center for Research on Women in Sport – Asia
- Conférence des ministres de la jeunesse et des sports de la Francophonie (*CONFESJES*) – Conference of Ministers of Youth and Sports of the Francophonie – Africa
- The Center for Sport, Peace, and Society at the University of Tennessee – North America

Several of **brightest leaders from Aotearoa New Zealand and APAC have also been confirmed:**

- Sport New Zealand, Ihi Aotearoa
- The Australian Institute Of Sport
- The Oceania Football Confederation
- Netball New Zealand
- The University of Otago
- Women Sport Australia
- New Zealand Cricket
- High Performance Sport New Zealand
- The Shift Foundation
- The Oceania Hockey Federation

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## >> About Women in Sport Aotearoa

Women in Sport Aotearoa, *Ngā Wāhine Hākinakina o Aotearoa*, exists to transform society through leadership, advocacy and research, ensuring that all women and girls gain equity of opportunity to participate, compete and build careers in play, active recreation and sport in Aotearoa New Zealand.

WISPA was established by 22 original Foundation Members - made up of senior women from across sport, business, government, and academia - and launched on UN International Women's Day 2017. Its strategic vision is to see 'women and girls valued, visible and influential in sport'. It is working toward this through delivery of insight and research, change leadership, advocacy campaigns, speaking engagements and events like the Captains Lunch and the Sport NZ Women + Girls Summit.

WISPA works across Aotearoa New Zealand and is currently delivery agent for the International Working Group (IWG) on Women and Sport Secretariat & Conference 2018 - 2022, with the 8th IWG World Conference taking place in Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland and Online between 14-17 November 2022. The conference is being designed and staged by WISPA, with support from 150+ volunteers.

Women in Sport Aotearoa is a charity. Its funding comes from a mix of Grants and Trusts, Donations, Fundraising, Gifts and Commercial Partnerships. Visit the website to learn more or [DONATE NOW](#).

[www.womeninsport.org.nz](http://www.womeninsport.org.nz)

Search 'Women in Sport Aotearoa' on Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube.

## >> About the International Working Group (IWG) on Women and Sport

The IWG is the world's largest network dedicated empowering women and girls and advancing sport. Established in 1994, the IWG advocates for gender equity in sport and physical activity year-round, partnering with key agencies, including UN Women and UNESCO. It developed and remains guardian of the Brighton plus Helsinki 2014 Declaration on Women & Sport, which now has almost 600 signatories, and delivers the well-respected IWG Progress Report at the quadrennial IWG World Conference. The IWG administrative function moves every four years and is currently in Aotearoa New Zealand. In mid-2021 it was announced that the IWG Secretariat and World Conference 2022 – 2026 quadrennial will be hosted by the United Kingdom, with the Sport and Recreation Alliance taking over as global delivery agency in mid to late 2022. The Secretariat will be hosted in London and the 9<sup>th</sup> IWG World Conference on Women & Sport will take place in Birmingham in mid-2026.

[www.iwgwomenandsport.org](http://www.iwgwomenandsport.org)

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