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## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **MADDEN WON'T SPEND A PENNY ON TOILETS AND CHANGE ROOMS**

Fifteen year-old Ballarat netballers are being forced to change in cars or in a 100 year-old men's toilet block after their matches because the Bracks Government has ignored their request for toilets and changing facilities.

The Bracks Government has ignored an application for \$29,000 under the sporting grants program for the East Point Football/Netball Club to build adequate toilet and change room facilities on its home ground at the Eastern Oval.

Women's cricket, athletics, disability sport, and primary school sports are played on Eastern Oval and a minimum of 60 female competitors from 15 years old use the venue every Saturday between April and September.

Eastern Oval is one of the three premier sporting venues in the municipality accommodating many regional and state based events, but the only changing and toilet facility at the ground is the century old men's toilet - complete with urinals.

Labor's Minister for Sport and Recreation Justin Madden and Ballarat MP Karen Overington have both failed to reply to the club and explain why funds were not allocated to the project despite promises to the contrary.

Justin Madden promised a response during an interview on SEN radio and Karen Overington also pledged a reply at a meeting earlier this week.

Ballarat City Council, the Mayor and the Ballarat Department of Sport and Recreation all supported the application.

When asked in Parliament this week why the facilities were not funded, Justin Madden could not give an answer.

The Ballarat Football/Netball League, with support from the Ballarat City Council, funded and built a \$50,000 netball court at Eastern Oval last year and counted on the Bracks Government to chip in for toilets and change room facilities this year.

That was a fair expectation considering Justin Madden encouraged the league to apply for a grant on his last visit to Ballarat.

The new toilets and change facility will cost \$50,000 and the league has been fundraising to pay the shortfall from the expected government grant.

Justin Madden, in his failure to support these facilities or even explain why he has not supported them, has shown disregard for women's sport and the hard-working administrators of the Ballarat Football/Netball League.

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