



Marjorie Jackson-Nelson
**CENTRE FOR
WOMEN'S SPORT**

Media release. Embargoed until 21 March 2024

Launch details:

What: Adelaide Uni Sport/Sport SA Women in Sport Brunch.

When: Thursday 21 March 2024 9:30-11:30 am

Where: Sky City Ballroom

Who: Over 250 guests

Marjorie Jackson-Nelson Centre for Women's Sport - Ashleigh Young scholarships to be launched

In honour of Ashleigh's incredible life and contributions, and in collaboration with Ashleigh's family and the organisations she was involved in, Sport SA has established the Marjorie Jackson-Nelson Ashleigh Young scholarship program. A scholarship fund that aims to continue her mission by supporting professional learning opportunities for women in sport through the Marjorie Jackson-Nelson Centre for Women's sport. This initiative seeks to empower other passionate individuals to follow in Ashleigh's footsteps, ensuring her vision and dedication to women's sport lives on and flourishes. Ashleigh Young was absolutely thrilled and delighted to be an inaugural participant in the Marjorie Jackson-Nelson program.

Ashleigh Young was a remarkable figure in the world of sport, both on the field and behind the scenes as a passionate coach and sports administrator.

Her journey began with a deep-rooted love for competitive sport, inspired by watching her father on the football field. This passion drove her to not only excel in various sports throughout her schooling but also to pursue a career dedicated to fostering the growth and development of women's sports.

With a bachelor's degree in Sport and Recreation Management under her belt, Ashleigh's professional journey saw her making significant contributions across different roles, including with the Football Federation South Australia, Norwood Football Club, Sacred Heart College and Wilderness School.

Throughout her varied roles, Ashleigh's vision was clear: to lead programs that not only allowed young female athletes to reach the highest levels in their sport but also ensure they found joy and camaraderie in each other.

Ashleigh Young's untimely passing at the age of 31, due to complications from her asthma, has left an indelible mark on the community she so fervently served. Remembered as a mother figure, mentor, and friend, her legacy is one of warmth, care, and unwavering support for the aspirations of young women in sport. The profound impact of her work and her inspirational spirit has touched countless lives, leaving behind a legacy that will inspire future generations of women in sport.

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Donations are tax deductible with all funds raised to be used for the scholarship program. Donations can be made at: [Marjorie Jackson-Nelson Centre for Women's Sport - Ashleigh Young Scholarships | Australian Sports Foundation \(asf.org.au\)](https://www.marjoriejackson-nelson.org.au)

Further background

In South Australia women are underrepresented in sport as athletes, coaches, officials, administrators, and board members in comparison to men. Progress has been slow in achieving gender equity in sport. Concerns continue regarding gender bias, and it prevents women and girls from receiving the full range of benefits sport can offer. We need to close the “gap” and provide more opportunities for women and girls to play and lead.

The [Marjorie Jackson-Nelson Centre for Women's Sport](https://www.marjoriejackson-nelson.org.au), administered by Sport SA and funded by the state Government, provides professional development opportunities for women in sport to play, lead and change the game for future generations by incrementally increasing and developing the number of women in sporting leadership roles. The program was launched in April 2023.

Women in sport may apply for an Ashleigh Young Scholarship through the annual application process for selection to participate in the Marjorie Jackson-Nelson Centre for Women's Sport Program. Scholarship applications will be assessed and awarded by a panel established by Sport SA.

Scholarship collaborating partners: Sports SA, Wilderness School, Sacred Heart College, Football Federation South Australia, Norwood Football Club, Adelaide City Football Club, Port Adelaide AFLW, SANFL, St Mary's College.

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