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Eastern Suburbs AFC

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ESAFc Youth Chairman's report 2018

2018 has been a milestone year for Youth with the emphases for the first time being placed on our high-performance segment.

While it's a first step on a long journey we have established;

- A clear list of High-Performance players across Boys and Girls that have the potential to play for our 1st teams.
- A development plan in place for each player.
- Opportunities for players to play at a higher level in a controlled and managed way.
- Fantastic Coordination and commination between coaches.
- A strong under 17 team that will feed into next year's Winter Premier Teams.
- A National Youth Squad with 15 Suburbs boys (a First).
- An under 17 Women's team playing senior football and winning.
- A partnership with the Ole academy that has seen an amazing take up in Term 4 of high-quality players that traditionally would have gone elsewhere.

This strategy has seen a cultural change in attitude and professionalism that has admittedly taken time to embed but the reaction has been immense and has increased further, not only our player depth, but a significant increase in continuous attendance. Ie more players playing more football.

In short, we have raised the professionalism of our coaching and our players are stepping up to the challenge. This stepped change has been the result of the leadership of Danny Hay. Our challenge for next year is how we continue to create opportunities to leverage Danny's leadership further so that he can set the strategy for other segments of the club such as in our Social and Competitive segments and overall customer experience.

Also, with the focus of the Exec to improve our Finance, HR and administration tasks, we have also become a lot closer to our performance measures. This has helped us better manage our costs and allowed us to utilise the experience and leadership of Tracey to improve the Suburb experience across all segments. We are eternally grateful for the work Tracey does.

Our challenge for 2019 will be how we can leverage our considerable experience within the club in a more sustainable way and continue to do more with our High-Performance segment while at the same time improving our Social and Competitive segments experience.

Michael Cahir
ESAFc Youth Chairperson