



## LARA BASKETBALL CLUB Inc.

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To Whom it may concern

The Lara Giants Basketball Club is a diversified volunteer ran club with almost thirty years of representing and actively supporting the Lara community. We are one of the largest basketball clubs within the Geelong region, generating a significant component of the teams entered within the Geelong United Basketball Association. Over the last five years our club and basketball has seen rapid, continued growth, especially from Lara members.

Basketball numbers continue to grow in our region, especially in Lara where more kids play basketball than any other sport. We are asking for local councillors to publically support a stadium for our region. Currently we are based at the three local Lara schools that have basketball courts and pay to hire their gymnasiums having them booked out four nights a week from 4pm to 9pm at a substantial cost to our club.

We have a strong dedicated committee of 15 who are currently storing the clubs memorabilia, flags and pennants, photos and memories in boxes, along with our uniforms and merchandise in their homes. We struggle for venues to hold our committee meetings, presentations days and uniform days. We are a community focused club that is dedicated to providing opportunities for our members and the wider community. This is evident in our all abilities program, programs for younger kids and special free female only sessions. Not to mention our specialised training sessions and basketball clinics where we focus on the physical and mental wellbeing of our members.

It is time to support this growing sport and allow us a safe, consistent environment for our club to exercise, play, train and ultimately have fun. The physical and mental wellbeing of our club and community is of paramount concern – and having a committed, permanent venue that would predominately be for our club would provide this support.

A stadium for our region would create jobs, and opportunities as well as allow not only our basketball membership but our extended community the opportunities this facility could offer. At this time of City of Greater Geelong elections we seek your support and appreciate your feedback on the ever-growing need for this type of facility in our region.

It is time for us to stand up and be heard, it is time that we invest in our community by providing much needed jobs and invest in a sport that is growing in popularity, in a suburb that is also showing massive growth. It is time for the Lara Giants to be given a home.

We are calling on the support of our local representatives to support Lara and basketball and help deliver a stadium for the sake of our kids and our community.

Jason Aherne  
President

Lorraine Kulic  
Vice President

Gemma Bartolo  
Treasurer

Jenny Plozza  
Secretary