



WESTFIELD FFA CUP WINNERS 2017



The PFA

FFA Cup Report

2017



About this Report

Last year, the PFA delivered its inaugural FFA Cup Report, highlighting trends from the first three editions of the competition.

The PFA has again partnered with Australian football statistician Andrew Howe to update the data for the fourth FFA Cup and introduce new analyses of crowds and player movements between A-League and NPL clubs.

The FFA Cup has captured Australia's imagination by creating a footprint that is truly national in its breadth and uniquely inclusive in its depth.

As discussions advance regarding the urgent need to expand the professional footprint in Australia, the FFA Cup provides a valuable touchstone when approaching the logistical, architectural and geographical questions that need to be asked.

We believe it is therefore critical to produce research such as this to ensure future discourse is supported by data and evidence.

The PFA believes a better-informed game leads to more impactful football education, analysis and decision-making.



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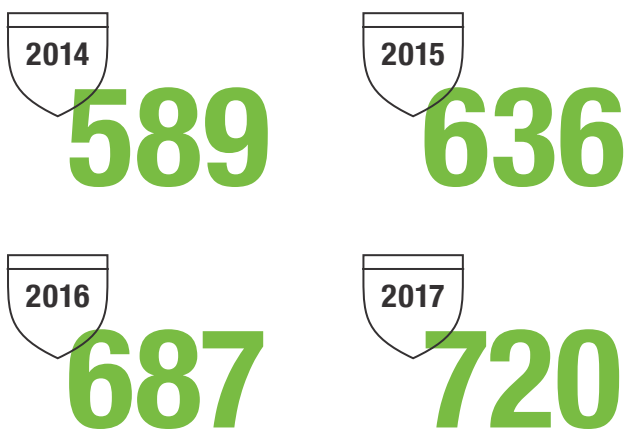
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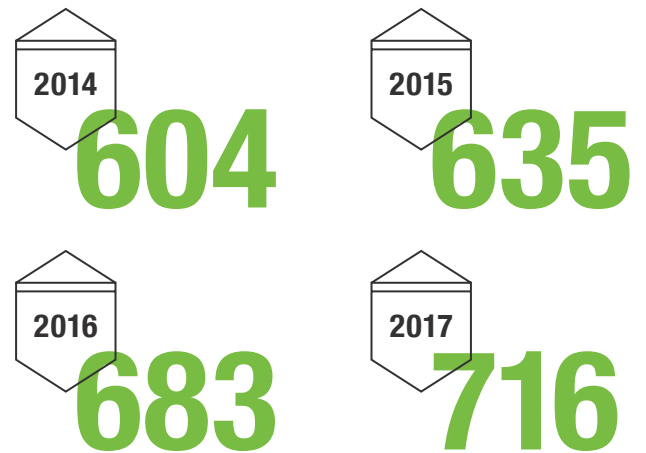
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Participation

TOTAL NUMBER OF CLUBS*

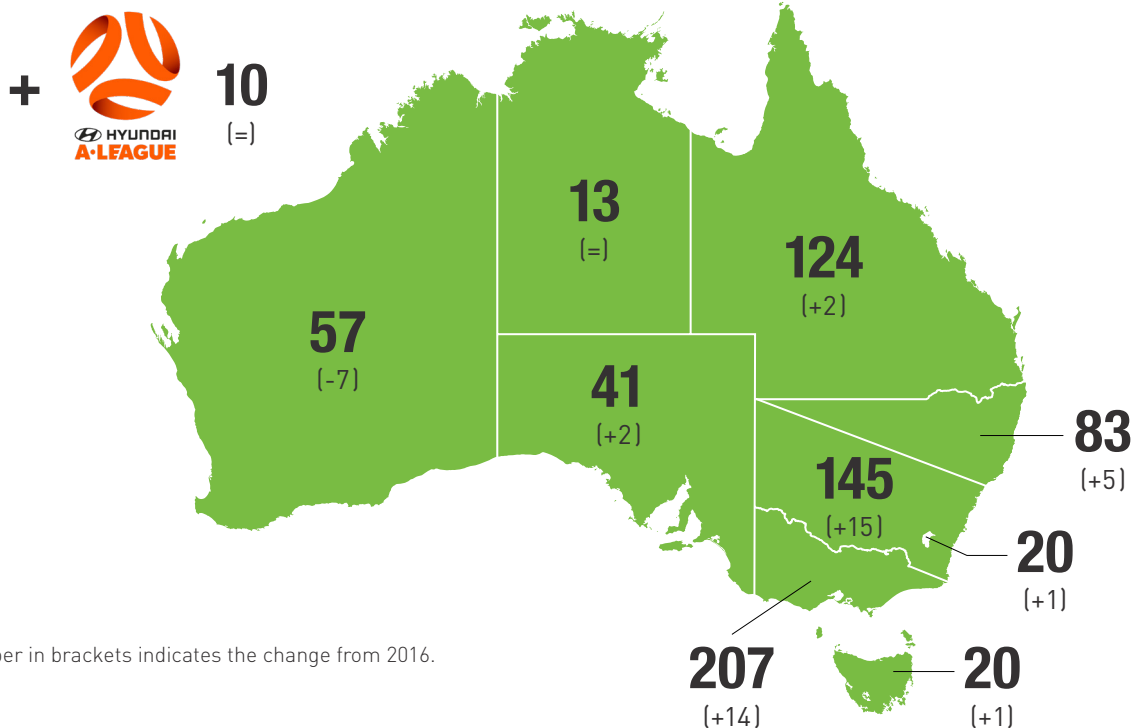


TOTAL NUMBER OF MATCHES



*Clubs that played in an FFA Cup match. Note that other sources may include teams that entered the draw but forfeited.

SOURCE OF CLUBS / 2017



The number in brackets indicates the change from 2016.

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The 2017 FFA Cup delivered more goals than ever, well above the scoring rate of the A-League, which is already high amongst leagues globally.

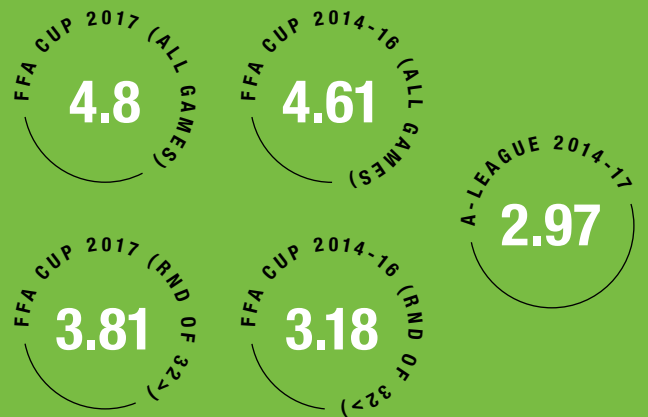
Goals and Competitiveness



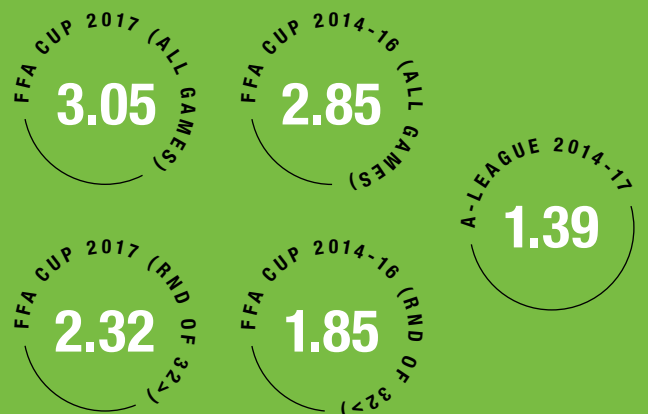
The 2017 FFA Cup delivered more goals than ever, well above the scoring rate of the A-League, which is already high amongst leagues globally. There were nearly five goals per match when the preliminary rounds were included, while the Round of 32 onwards saw a large uptick on previous years to nearly four goals per match.

Scanning the results, there was no one pattern to the high scoring. It can probably be explained by two main factors: mismatches between clubs from different tiers, and teams lacking structure due to playing out of season. Interestingly, Sydney FC and Adelaide United only conceded a goal each on the way to the Final, highlighting the value of defensive strength in this tournament.

GOALS PER GAME



AVERAGE SCORE DIFFERENTIAL



Member Federation Performance



All-time FFA Cup record in matches against other Member Federation clubs



CLUBS' MEMBER FEDERATION	P	W	D	L	WIN%*
Football Federation Victoria	29	16	8	5	76% ^
Capital Football	6	3	1	2	60% v
Football Queensland	20	9	2	9	50% =
Football NSW	28	12	3	13	48% ^
Football Federation South Australia	7	2	1	4	33% v
Football Federation Tasmania	5	1	2	2	33% v
Football West	5	1	0	4	20% ^
Northern NSW Football	7	1	1	5	17% v
Football Federation Northern Territory	1	0	0	1	0% =

*Up or down arrow indicates whether 2017 results improved or regressed previous overall win %

'Cupsets'

Two more 'Cupsets' were achieved in 2017, taking the Member Federation clubs' record to five wins in 39 matches against A-League clubs.

All 'Cupsets' have occurred in the Round of 32, all have been by a margin of one goal, and four of the five 'Cupsets' have been in the past two editions of the FFA Cup.

2017 'Cupsets'

Blacktown City (NSW) 3-2 Central Coast Mariners
Heidelberg United (VIC) 1-0 Perth Glory

Away Performance

RND OF 32 > AWAY TEAM WIN %

(Member Federation clubs only, draws excluded)



28.6%



48.1%

The early overperformance of away teams in all-NPL FFA Cup matches has reversed this year. Given the four-year A-League away team winning % (excluding draws) is around 39%, these results most likely represent a regression to the mean.

DISTANCE TRAVELLED

35,800kms

The total distance travelled by the 31 away teams in the 2017 Round of 32 onwards.

'Cup Runs'

Relationship between FFA Cup success and start to the A-League season

2017/18 LADDER AFTER ROUND 9

CLUB	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS	FFA CUP
Sydney FC	9	7	1	1	15	8	22	Champion
Newcastle Jets	9	5	2	2	21	11	17	Rnd of 32
Melbourne City	9	5	1	3	12	10	16	QF
Central Coast Mariners	9	3	3	3	13	13	12	Rnd of 32
Adelaide United	9	3	2	4	10	11	11	Final
Melbourne Victory	9	2	4	3	12	14	10	Rnd of 16
Perth Glory	9	3	1	5	11	16	10	Rnd of 32
Brisbane Roar	9	2	3	4	12	14	9	Rnd of 32
Western Sydney Wanderers	8	1	5	2	9	12	8	SF
Wellington Phoenix	8	1	2	5	14	20	5	Rnd of 32

LAST YEAR we noted that there was a correlation between success in the FFA Cup and a strong start to the A-League season, with all but two of the first nine A-League teams to play in the FFA Cup semi-finals positioned in the top half of the ladder after Round 9 that year.

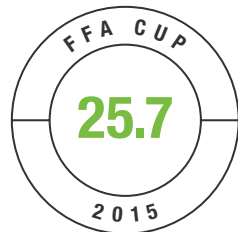
This occurred despite the possible disruption the FFA Cup causes to an A-League club's schedule.

THIS SEASON has produced mixed results. The Cup Champions, Sydney FC, have demonstrated their strength across both competitions, while Adelaide started the A-League slowly – perhaps in part due to the fixture congestion and injuries – before hitting form and breaching the top five in Round 9.

The other semi-finalist, Western Sydney, were unique in that the coach who steered them to that point resigned on the eve of the A-League season.

Player Analysis - Age

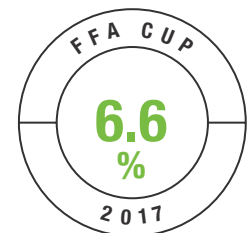
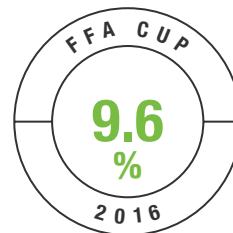
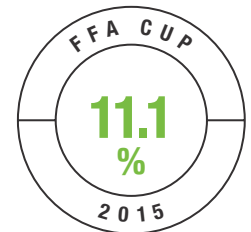
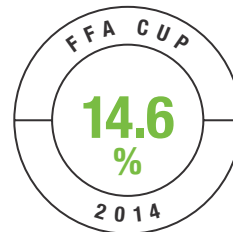
AVERAGE AGE OF PLAYERS USED



FFA CUP 2017



% OF APPEARANCES BY TEENAGERS



There has been a sharp decline in the number of young players featuring in the FFA Cup. In line with the A-League, the average age of players has increased year after year. The Member Federation clubs still skew younger than the A-League clubs, but that gap is closing. This year the Member Federation clubs featured a lower percentage of teenagers (6.4%) than A-League clubs (6.9%) for the first time.

Player Analysis - Pathways

Member Federation club players with A-League experience

FFA CUP 2014 - 2017

14.4%

of Member Federation players had played in the A-League previously

32

Average number of A-League appearances for each player

There is increasing discourse on the reliance of A-League clubs on the NPL system for talent production, but this evidence shows the door swings both ways.

Member Federation clubs in the final 32 benefit from about 45 players each year who have played in the A-League, not counting others who have developed at A-League clubs without making a league debut.

Sydney United and South Melbourne have been the two sides most reliant on former A-League players, with each using seven such players during their 2017 FFA Cup campaigns. United also matched that number in 2016.

The NPL club with the most top flight experience on the pitch however was MetroStars in 2016, when they had 480 national league appearances courtesy of:



Crowds

FFA Cup crowd figures are strongly influenced by the luck of the draw; for instance which teams are drawn at home, derbies, and venue capacities. Four years of data gives us a large enough sample to see some trends emerge.

AVERAGE CROWDS - FFA CUP 2014 - 2017

1,395	3,607	4,425
Member Federation club v Member Federation club	Member Federation club v A-League club	A-League club v A-League club (excluding Final)

HIGHEST CROWDS

Member Federation club v Member Federation club

2,370

Palm Beach Sharks (QLD) v
South Springvale (VIC)

Robina Stadium / Rnd of 16

2,270

Heidelberg United (VIC) v
Sydney United (NSW)

Olympic Village / Rnd of 16

3,168

Devonport Strikers (TAS) v
Bentleigh Greens (VIC)

Valley Road / Rnd of 16

2,907

Gold Coast City (QLD) v
South Melbourne (VIC)

Robina Stadium / Quarter Final

Member Federation club - all games

8,125

Sydney United v
Sydney FC / 1 - 3

Sydney United Sports Centre /
Rnd of 16

11,372

Heidelberg United v
Melbourne City / 0 - 5

Olympic Village / Quarter Final

8,029

Wollongong Wolves v
Sydney FC / 0 - 3

WIN Stadium / Rnd of 32

5,747

South Melbourne v
Sydney FC / 1 - 5

Lakeside Stadium / Semi Final

Total number
of fans for
Round of 32 >
matches

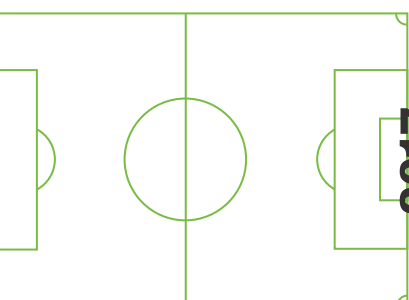
398,871

2014

2015

2016

2017





Respect

Courage

Trust



World Class

Intelligence



Professional Footballers Australia

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