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## MEDIA RELEASE

### **ANU Women's Football Club and Queenies join forces to celebrate inclusivity and community**

ANU Women's Football Club (ANUWFC) is proud to announce a new partnership with Queenies, a woman-owned bar dedicated to fostering a safe and inclusive environment for all. This collaboration brings together two community-focused organisations that champion safe spaces for (cis and trans) women and non-binary people.

ANUWFC, the oldest and largest women's-only football club in Canberra, has a long history of promoting inclusivity and empowering women and non-binary people through sport. Queenies shares these values, offering a welcoming venue where the community can connect, celebrate, and support one another.

"Support from community businesses like Queenies is invaluable to our club," said Josie Chantrell, President of ANUWFC. "It strengthens our ability to invest in quality equipment, attract more (cis and trans) female and non-binary coaches and referees, and close the gender disparity in positions of power."

"We are thrilled to partner with Queenies, a venue that aligns so strongly with our club's values of inclusivity, sportspersonship, community, and support", Ms Chantrell continued. "Football is about more than just the game - it's about belonging, and we know that Queenies provides the same sense of belonging off the field."

"In the current climate, it is more important than ever to stand up for the values that I, and my team, believe in and demonstrate in how we behave every day", said Queenies owner Pam Howarth.

"We believe that everyone has the right to be accepted, included, valued and respected. I hope that everyone who visits Queenies has a positive experience and that is why we chose to support ANU Women's Football Club", Ms Howarth said.

This partnership will see Queenies provide much needed support to ANUWFC. Together, ANUWFC and Queenies will create more opportunities for connection, support, and shared success.

ANUWFC is a community based, all inclusive, amateur and semi-professional football (soccer) club for women (cis and trans) and nonbinary people. It was established in 1978 by ANU staff who wanted to create their own football club, and not play second fiddle to the men of a traditional football club. Until 2021, it was the only women's football club in Canberra, and it's still the largest.

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